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Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, August 14, 2014



A man makes his way through flood waters in Bay Shore, N.Y., Aug. 13, 2014. Record-setting rainfall overnight — more than 13 inches in some places — caused chaos for Long Island commuters and forced some homeowners to evacuate, though there were no immediate reports of injuries.

(Uli Seit/The New York Times)

Record-Setting Rainfall Douses Long Island

**MARC SANTORA
ARIELLE DOLLINGER**
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Over the years, Long Island has been blasted by hurricanes, drenched by tropical storms and battered by blizzards. But none of those storms brought the kind of del-

uge many residents experienced early Wednesday. In less than 24 hours, 13.27 inches of rain had fallen at Long Island MacArthur Airport in Islip, in Suffolk County, shattering a daily rainfall record in New York state. The previous record during a 24-hour period - 11.6 inch-

es - was measured near Tarrytown in Westchester County during Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. On Wednesday morning, during a single hour - from 5 to 6 a.m. - 5 inches of rain soaked the earth. The storm brought down trees, prompted families

to evacuate their homes, and flooded major roads and highways, with drivers abandoning their vehicles to escape the rapidly rising water. The weather was blamed for at least one death. Around 5 a.m., a man driving a Jeep Liberty on the Long Island Express-

way lost control, crashing into a tanker truck and a concrete guardrail before his vehicle burst into flames, the police said. The driver of the Jeep, who was not identified, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Continued on Page 6

Brazil presidential candidate dies in plane crash

**ADRIANA LICON
STAN LEHMAN
Associated Press**

SANTOS, Brazil (AP) — Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos died Wednesday when the small plane that was carrying him and several campaign officials plunged into a residential neighborhood in the port city of Santos.

All seven people aboard the plane, including a campaign photographer and cameraman, a press adviser and two pilots, died in the crash, Santos City Hall press officer Patricia Figueiro told The Associated Press.

In a solemn address, President Dilma Rousseff declared three days of official mourning in honor of Campos and said she would suspend her campaign during that time.

"Today Brazil is in mourning and reeling from a death

that took the life of a promising young politician," she said, adding that Campos had been facing "an extremely promising future." Campos, the scion of a political family from the northeastern state of Pernambuco, had been an ally of Rousseff but broke away ahead of the campaign for the Oct. 4 presidential election.

Polls suggested he was running in third place, far behind Rousseff and another political rival. But his Brazilian Socialist Party ticket was widely regarded as among the best-placed to challenge Rousseff and her Workers Party, thanks largely to his popular running mate, former Environment Minister Marina Silva, who joined Campos' ticket after her attempt to run for president herself failed.

It was not immediately clear whether Silva would assume Campos' spot as

the party's presidential candidate. Under Brazilian law, in the event of a candidate's death, a party has 10 days to decide on a substitute.

A visibly shaken Silva spoke to reporters in Santos, reading a prepared statement in which she concentrated on her relationship with Campos and gave her po-

litical future a wide berth. "During these 10 months of partnership, I learned to respect him, admire him and feel confidence in his attitudes and his ideals in



In this Aug. 8, 2014 photo released by the Partido Socialista Brasileiro, PSB, Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos, center, campaigns in Arapiraca, Brazil. The PSB presidential candidate died Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, when the small plane that was carrying him and several campaign officials plunged into a residential neighborhood in the port city of Santos, a City Hall official there said. (AP Photo/Partido Socialista Brasileiro, Alexandre Severo)

UN says Iraq humanitarian crisis at highest level

**VIVIAN SALAMA
SAMEER N. YACOB
Associated Press**

BAGHDAD (AP) — The United Nations on Wednesday called its highest level of emergency for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, where hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes and tens of thousands have been trapped on a desert mountain by the advance of Islamic militants across the north of the country.

A Pentagon official said a team of fewer than 20 U.S. Army Special Forces were flown atop Sinjar Mountain to get a firsthand look at possible ways to rescue the stranded civilians suffering from thirst and hunger. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the mission had not yet been announced.

The U.N. declaration of a "Level 3 Emergency" will trigger trigger additional goods, funds and assets to respond to the needs of those displaced, said U.N. special representative Nickolay Mladenov, who pointed to the "scale and complexity of the current

humanitarian catastrophe."

Since June, Iraq has been facing an onslaught by the Islamic State group and allied Sunni militants across much of the country's north and west. In recent weeks, the crisis has worsened as the militant fighters swept over new towns in the north, displacing members of the minority Christian and Yazidi religious communities, and threatening the neighboring Iraqi Kurdish autonomy zone.

Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled the advance to take refuge in the remote desert Sinjar mountain range, becoming trapped for days without food or water. The U.S. and Iraqi military have dropped food and water supplies into the mountains, and in recent days Kurds from neighboring Syria battled to open a corridor to the mountain, allowing some 45,000 to escape.

Mladenov said tens of thousands of people are reportedly still trapped on Sinjar Mountain "with health conditions quickly deteriorating." The White

House said Wednesday it is considering a range of military options to rescue them, including airlifts and creating safe passages. The U.N. said it would provide increased support to those who have escaped

city, Mosul, in June and quickly swept over other parts of the country.

The United States has been carrying out airstrikes in recent days against Islamic State fighters, helping fend back their advance



Civilians inspect the site of a car bomb attack near a restaurant in the southeastern district of New Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. A string of attacks in and around the capital killed more than a dozen and wounded dozens. (AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

Sinjar and to 400,000 other Iraqis who have fled since June to the Kurdish province of Dahuk, the U.N. said. Others have fled to other parts of the Kurdish region or further south. A total of 1.5 million have been displaced by the fighting since the insurgents captured Iraq's second-largest

on Kurdish regions. At the same time, Iraq's central government in Baghdad has been mired in political turmoil, after the president nominated a Shiite politician, Haider al-Abadi, to form the next government, putting him on track to replace embattled Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. □

life," Silva said in a soft, wavering voice. She rose from the microphone before the press could pepper her with questions.

Pundits were already predicting that Campos' death could complicate the presidential race for Rousseff.

Brazilian television broadcast a continuous loop of images of the wreckage, a smoldering pit between buildings of several stories, with emergency workers picking through the rubble. Brazil's top broadcaster, Globo, ran interviews with eyewitnesses who reported the plane was already ablaze before the crash around 10 a.m.

Aeronautical authorities said the Cessna 560XL was attempting to land in bad weather.

Sao Paulo state security officials said it appeared there were no on-ground deaths. The newspaper Folha de S.Paulo reported five people on the ground were injured. The plane took off from Rio de Janeiro, where Campos appeared in a television interview Tuesday, and was headed to the city of Guarujá, where he was to participate in a conference about Brazil's ports. □



A pro-Russian rebel stands at a block-post on the outskirts of Donetsk near a bullet riddled bus, eastern Ukraine, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, where at least 12 militiamen fighting alongside government troops against pro-Russian separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine have been killed in an ambush, a spokesman for their radical nationalist movement said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

Ukraine death toll spikes as new attacks intensify

SERGEI GRITS
A. ROSLYAKOV
Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP) — A rebel-held city in eastern Ukraine came under intensified shelling Wednesday as the U.N. revealed that the death toll from the fighting between government troops and separatists has nearly doubled in the last two weeks. A spokeswoman for the U.N.'s human rights office, Cecile Pouilly, said the organization's "very conservative estimates" show the overall death toll has risen to at least 2,086 people as of Aug. 10, up from 1,129 on July 26. Pouilly said at least 4,953 others have been wounded in the fighting since mid-April.

While the humanitarian crisis reaches critical stage in at least one major Ukrainian city, trucks apparently carrying some 2,000 tons of aid have lain idle at a military depot in Russia. Moscow insists it coordinated the dispatch of the goods, which range from baby food and canned meat to portable generators and sleeping bags, with the international Red Cross, but Ukraine says it's worried the mission may be a cover for an invasion. A spokesman for local authorities in the main rebel-controlled city of Donetsk told The Associated Press on Wednesday that rocket attacks over the previous night had increased in intensity. Several high-rise apartment

blocks in a southwestern district in the city showed the effect of artillery strikes. In one, the facade of one of the top floors was blown away to reveal a shattered interior. Others bore smashed windows and gaping holes.

Associated Press reporters saw two bodies lying in a street Wednesday morning in Donetsk's southwestern Petrovsky district. The local government said three were killed, a figure that adds to the sharply mounting death toll.

Shelling in Donetsk has damaged power plants and gas pipelines, leaving large parts of the city without electricity or gas, city council spokesman Maxim Rovinsky said.

Damage to residential buildings is an apparent result of two combined factors: The army has refrained from going into Donetsk, favoring an artillery campaign of attrition over close urban combat. And local residents have regularly revealed that damaged houses are often to be found near rebel firing positions, suggesting that the rocket attacks are responses to outgoing strikes. Government troops and the volunteers fighting with them are also sustaining heavy losses while making regular territorial advances. At least 12 militiamen fighting alongside the army were killed overnight Tuesday in an ambush outside Donetsk, a spokesman for their radical nationalist movement said Wednesday. □

Egypt:

Temporary truce extended in Gaza

M. DARAGHMEH
TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and Hamas agreed to extend a temporary cease-fire for five days, Egyptian and Palestinian officials announced Wednesday, permitting the sides to continue to negotiate a substantive deal to end the war in Gaza.

Yet even as the extension was announced just minutes before a previous truce was set to expire at midnight, violence spiked, with Palestinian militants firing five rockets at Israel and Israel targeting sites across the Gaza Strip in response. It was not clear if the fighting was isolated or

egation to the Cairo talks. He noted that there had been "significant progress" but that disagreements remained over the wording regarding security arrangements, reconstruction efforts for the Gaza Strip and the permissible fishing area.

The lull in violence had been a welcome reprieve for Israelis and Palestinians living in Gaza. During the temporary cease-fire, Israel halted military operations in the war-battered coastal territory and Gaza militants stopped firing rockets, aside from the ones late Wednesday.

The two sides were considering an Egyptian proposal that partially addresses

tory. Israel wants Hamas to disarm, or at least be prevented from re-arming. Hamas has recovered from previous rounds of violence with Israel, including a major three-week ground operation in January 2009 and another weeklong air offensive in 2012. It now controls an arsenal of thousands of rockets, some with long ranges and powerful. Gaza militants fired more than 3,000 rockets toward Israel during the war. Neither side is likely to see all of its demands met, but the Egyptian proposal tabled Tuesday offered some solutions. A member of the Palestinian delegation at the Cairo talks said the pro-



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo touches the stones of the Western Wall, the holiest site where Jews can pray, during his visit to Jerusalem's old city, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. Israel and Hamas agreed to extend a temporary cease-fire for five days, Egyptian and Palestinian officials announced Wednesday. (AP Photo/Emil Salman)

might shatter the truce. Egypt's foreign ministry and the head of the Palestinian negotiating team announced the extension, which began at midnight local time. A spokesman for Israel's prime minister had no immediate comment.

The cease-fire extension is meant to grant both sides additional time to negotiate a longer-term truce and a roadmap for the coastal territory.

"We have agreed on a cease-fire for five days," said Azzam al-Ahmad, the head of the Palestinian del-

their demands, but deep differences have kept the deal in doubt.

Hamas is seeking an end to a crippling blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt in 2007. The blockade has greatly limited the movement of Palestinians in and out of the territory of 1.8 million people. It has also restricted the flow of goods into Gaza and blocked virtually all exports.

Israel says the closure is necessary to prevent arms smuggling, and officials are reluctant to make any concessions that would allow Hamas to declare vic-

positional calls for easing parts of the Israeli blockade of Gaza, bringing some relief to the territory.

The proposal leaves the key areas of disagreement, including Hamas' demand for a full lifting of the blockade and Israeli calls for Hamas to disarm, to later negotiations.

The Palestinian negotiator said he had some reservations about the proposal and would try to improve it. "We would like to see more cross-border freedom, and also to have the question of a Gaza seaport and airport discussed," he said. □

White House and Clinton try to shrug off policy split

NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press

VINEYARD HAVEN, Massachusetts (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Barack Obama did their best to shrug off their differences Wednesday as they gathered on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard following a foreign policy split, in yet another twist in their complex and heavily scrutinized relationship. Obama's spokesman said the White House "is looking onwards and upwards," while Clinton joked she was planning on hugging it off with her former boss at a party on the upscale getaway where the president was vacationing. "We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have," Clinton told reporters crowded into a bookstore signing of her memoir, "Hard Choices." "But I'm proud that I served with him and for him, and I'm

looking forward to seeing him tonight." Clinton made her first public comments since a flap emerged over her interview with The Atlantic magazine in which she seemed to try to set herself apart from the unpopular

Obama as she heads toward a possible 2016 White House bid. "Great nations need organizing principles, and 'don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she had said in the interview, referring to a version

of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy. Clinton described a more aggressive approach she would take in places like Syria and the Mideast. Her critiques came at

a particularly challenging time for Obama, with bombs falling on Iraq and disputes raging in Syria, the Mideast, Ukraine and elsewhere. A former top Obama adviser, David Axelrod, took to Twitter to write: "Just to clarify: 'Don't do stupid stuff' means stuff like occupying Iraq in the first place, which was a tragically bad decision." It was her biggest split with Obama since their 2008 presidential primary campaign when she questioned whether her younger Senate colleague was qualified to take a 3 a.m. phone call on a foreign policy emergency. Clinton took a more hawkish stance than Obama in that campaign, particularly on the Iraq War, but Obama put their bitter contest behind them by naming her his top diplomat.

Clinton loyally carried out Obama's foreign policy agenda for four years as secretary of state, but described some objections she raised internally in her new book, which focused on her time in the administration. She expanded on those objections in her interview, saying Obama's "failure" to fully support the rebels in Syria fueled the rise of Islamic State militants now the object of U.S. airstrikes in Iraq. Reporters who crowded around a table set up for Clinton's signing at the Bunch of Grapes bookstore asked her whether she disagreed with Obama's Iraq policy.

"I'm excited about signing books," she said, turning to a line of hundreds that snaked through the rainy streets near the ferry dock that brings summer visitors to the island. About 1,000 copies of the book were bought in advance, and the store was open only for those who had made the purchases. Obama spokesman Eric Schultz declined to say whether the president was upset over her critique of his performance as he juggles several crises overseas, although he acknowledged "an honest policy difference" on the Syrian rebels. □



President Barack Obama follows through on a practice swing before teeing off while golfing at Vineyard Golf Club, in Edgartown, Mass., on the island of Martha's Vineyard. President Obama is taking a two-week summer vacation on the island. (AP Photo/Steven Senne)

Obama weighing options for Iraqi refugees

JULIE PACE
ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts (AP) — President Barack Obama is considering a range of military options, including airlifts and creating safe passages, for rescuing thousands of Iraqi refugees trapped on a mountain, the White House said. A small team of U.S. troops secretly scouted the site Wednesday. Following the team's assessment, it was deemed "far less likely now" that the U.S. would undertake a rescue mission on the mountain because far fewer refugees were found there than previously thought, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. Hagel said the refugees on the mountain were in relatively good condition. U.S. officials said only several thousand refugees remained on the mountain, far lower than the tens of thousands that had been reported earlier.

Hagel credited that in part to U.S. airstrikes giving people opportunity to get off the mountain and the food and water the U.S. has air-dropped to the refugees sustain them. A U.S. military-led rescue mission on Sinjar Mountain could involve putting American troops on the ground. But the White House insisted that their mission would be strictly a humanitarian rescue and would not constitute a return to combat 2 1/2 years after the last U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq. Obama is expected to make a decision in days. "We don't believe that involves U.S. troops re-entering a combat role in Iraq," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser. "It involves frankly a very difficult logistical challenge of moving folks who are in danger on that mountain into a safer position." The U.S. has been delivering food and water to the refugees for several days. But Rhodes said it was un-

sustainable to let thousands of people remain on the mountain. "There needs to be a lasting solution that gets that population to a safe space where they can receive more permanent assistance," he told reporters traveling with the president during his vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard. The Pentagon sent 129 U.S. troops to Iraq on Tuesday to assess the scope of the humanitarian crisis and the options for getting them safely off the mountain. Rhodes said that given the urgency of the situation, Obama was expected to receive their final recommendations quickly and make a decision within days. That process was advanced Wednesday when a team of fewer than 20 U.S. troops was flown onto the mountain by Black Hawk helicopter for a firsthand look at rescue mission possibilities, according to a defense official who revealed some details prior to a public

announcement of the mission. They were safely extracted hours later. Also Wednesday, a U.S. drone aircraft attacked and destroyed an armed truck operated by Islamic militants near Sinjar, the U.S. Central Command said. Thousands of Iraqi religious minorities sought refuge on Sinjar Mountain after militants from the Islamic State group swept through their village in northern Iraq. In addition to the humanitarian aid drops, the U.S. has conducted airstrikes against Islamic State targets, both to protect American personnel in the region and stop the militants from moving on the civilians again. Obama has ruled out sending combat troops back into Iraq, where nearly 4,500 Americans were killed during the eight year war that ended in 2011. Rhodes suggested the U.S. would undertake a rescue mission with help from allies, including Kurdish forces that are receiving arms from the U.S. and the British. □

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Report: White House didn't OK immigrant releases

ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 2,000 immigrants facing deportation in 2013 were released strictly for budget reasons by immigration agency officials who kept the homeland security secretary in the dark about the plan, according to a U.S. oversight report.

This lack of communication led the Obama administration to wrongly deny for weeks that 2,228 immigrants facing deportation had been released, according to the report Tuesday from the Homeland Security Department's inspector general.

It also said officials at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement did not adequately plan for the increase in immigrant arrests at the Mexican border and did not track available funds or spending accurately. Spokeswoman Gillian Christensen said Wednesday that the agency "is committed to addressing the issues identified in the report and has already begun developing plans of action."

Citing internal budget documents, The Associated Press reported on March 1, 2013, that the administration had released more than 2,000 immigrants in the preceding two weeks and planned to release 3,000 more amid the looming budget cuts.

The White House and the Homeland Security Department disputed AP's reporting until March 14, when the then-ICE director, John Morton, acknowledged to Congress during a hearing that the agency had released 2,228 people from immigration jails, starting Feb. 9, for what he described as "solely budget-

ary reasons."

At the time, Morton told lawmakers that the decision to release the immigrants was not discussed in advance with political appointees, including those in the White House and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. He said the pending automatic cuts known as sequestration were "driving in the background." The inspector general, John Roth, confirmed Morton's explanation, concluding that senior ICE officials did not inform Napolitano or the White House about the implications of the agency's budget shortfall and did not notify Napolitano about their plans to release the immigrants.

Napolitano said days after the AP published its story that the report was "not really accurate" and that it had developed "its own mythology." "Several hundred are related to sequester, but it wasn't thousands," Napolitano

said at the time. It was not immediately clear why Napolitano did not correct

her statements about the accuracy of AP's reporting between March 1 and

two weeks later, when Morton acknowledged the releases. □



Gov. Rick Perry shakes hands with National Guard troops training at Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. Perry visited some of the 1,000 troops he has ordered to the Texas-Mexico border but says he does not know how long they'll be deployed.

(AP Photo/William Luther)

Delay denied in ruling on US gay marriage ban

M. FELBERBAUM

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) — A federal appeals court refused Wednesday to delay its ruling striking down Virginia's gay marriage ban, which means that same-sex couples could begin marrying in the state as early as next week.

The state would also need to start recognizing marriages from out of state by next Wednesday, assuming the U.S. Supreme Court does not intervene on the high-profile issue. Momentum has been turning toward acceptance of gay marriage in many places across the U.S.

A county clerk had asked the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of

Appeals to stay its decision, issued in late July, while it is appealed to the high court. The appeals court's order did not explain why it denied that request.

While clerks in other states within the 4th Circuit — West Virginia and the Carolinas — technically wouldn't have to begin issuing licenses as well, federal courts in the state would likely make them if they don't, said Nancy Leong, a law professor at the University of Denver. Maryland, another state in the circuit, already allows same-sex marriages.

The 4th Circuit decision "shows that there's no longer a justification to keep same-sex couples from

marrying," Leong said. "Given how many different judges in so many different parts of the country ... have reached the same result, it seems highly likely that the plaintiffs will ultimately prevail on the merits, and I think that, in turn, explains why the 4th Circuit was not willing to grant a stay."

Ken Connelly, legal counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, which is representing Prince William County Clerk of Court Michele B. McQuigg in the case, said the group will seek an emergency stay from the nation's highest court "as soon as possible." That request will go to Chief Justice John Roberts, who is responsible for the

4th Circuit.

Connelly said he expects the stay to be granted, "given that there isn't any substantive difference" between the Virginia case and a federal case in Utah, in which the Supreme Court has twice granted delays in the state's fight to keep its same-sex marriage ban.

But Adam Umhoefer, executive director of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which argued against Virginia's gay marriage ban, said "Virginia's loving, committed gay and lesbian couples and their children should not be asked to wait one more day for their fundamental right to marry." □

Record-setting rainfall douses Long Island



Vehicles attempt to maneuver down a flooded Montauk Highway in Babylon, N.Y., Wednesday Aug. 13, 2014. The National Weather Service says parts of Long Island experienced record-setting rainfall in the past 24 hours. In one community, more than 13 inches of rain was reported.

(AP Photo/Frank Eltman)

Continued from front

With instant lakes, several feet deep, forming over what had been blacktop moments earlier, driving conditions quickly went from treacherous to impos-

sible. Emergency workers had to use boats to reach many of those who found themselves stranded.

The force of the water was so great that some cars weighing more 4,000 pounds lifted like driftwood

and simply floated away. On the Southern State Parkway alone, rescue workers found 47 vehicles with 52 people trapped along one half-mile stretch, said Robert Cabano, the first assistant fire chief in North

Babylon. "It's been a little crazy," said Cabano, who arrived on the scene at 5:15 a.m. "What could've been a tragic situation ended up being a very lucky day for a lot of people."

Steve Bellone, the Suffolk County executive, called the storm "unprecedented in size, extent and scale." Dozens of roads and highways were temporarily closed, including sections of the Long Island Expressway and the Southern State in the county, causing a commuting nightmare for thousands. There were also significant delays on the Long Island Rail Road.

A confluence of factors contributed to the heavy rainfall. Several weather systems came together over Long Island and were fed by tropical moisture, said Joe Pollina, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service. Then the storm sat over the Islip area for hours, creating a rainfall

that Pollina characterized as "very unusual."

New York City was largely spared. While just over 3 inches of rain fell at John F. Kennedy International Airport, less than an inch was measured in Central Park. Suffolk County experienced the heaviest rain, but the storm also caused problems in other parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

In the South Jersey community of Millville, where 9 inches of rain fell, the Red Cross reported that several families had to evacuate after their homes were damaged in heavy flooding.

By late Wednesday, most of the streets in Suffolk County had reopened, but there were still signs of the morning's deluge.

On the Northern State Parkway, the steering wheel of a maroon car was covered in a sheath of dried mud and the seats were littered with grass. □

Report says NSA eyed preset strikes in cyberattacks

JACK GILLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Security Agency secretly planned a cyberwarfare program that could automatically fire back at cyberattacks from foreign countries without any human involvement, creating the risk of acci-

dentally starting a war, according to a new report based on interviews with former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

The program, codenamed MonsterMind, would have let the military agency automate the process of "hunting for the beginnings" of a foreign cyber-

attack, the report said. The software would be constantly on the lookout for digital "traffic patterns" that indicated known or suspected attacks, said the report published this week by Wired magazine.

The report, part of a wide-ranging interview with Snowden in Moscow, described the MonsterMind program as "in the works" and went further than other programs that existed for decades.

Without any human involvement, Snowden told the magazine, a counter-attack could be leveled at an innocent party — largely because initial attacks are often routed or diverted through other countries.

"You could have someone sitting in China, for example, making it appear that one of these attacks is originating in Russia.

And then we end up shooting back at a Russian hospital," Snowden said. "What happens next?"

The problem of attribution after a cyberattack has

long unsettled computer security experts.

A House technology subcommittee in 2010 concluded that,

"proactively tracing interactions within a system may help determine where an attack originated after one occurs, but tracing every interaction is impractical and quite likely unconstitutional."

Snowden also called the program a major threat to privacy because NSA would first "have to secretly get access to virtually all private communications coming in from overseas to people in the U.S.," said the new report, by NSA expert and author James Bamford.

Snowden remains exiled in Russia since leaking top secret NSA documents to journalists last year.

They revealed the NSA was collecting the phone records and digital communications of millions of citizens not suspected of a crime, prompting congressional reform.

The NSA declined to comment on specifics of the Wired report.

A spokeswoman, Vanee Vines, instead said: "If Mr. Snowden wants to discuss his activities, that conversation should be held with the U.S. Department of Justice.

He needs to return to the United States to face the charges against him."

Snowden is charged under the U.S. Espionage Act and faces up to 30 years in prison for leaking the documents.

The U.S. government has elevated lately the damages of foreign cyberattacks against American interests. In May, the Justice Department brought first-of-its kind cyber-espionage charges against five Chinese military officials accused of hacking into U.S. companies to gain trade secrets. Snowden also told the magazine that the NSA tried to hack into a major Syrian Internet router in 2012 during the middle of the country's civil war. □

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US Financial Front:

Overall retail sales in America essentially flat in July

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

— U.S. retail sales were essentially flat in July, providing evidence that consumers have yet to shed their doubts about the economy despite recent job gains.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that seasonally adjusted retail sales were unchanged in July compared with the prior month. Total sales rose a statistically insignificant \$161 million from \$439.6 billion in June.

Spending dipped at auto dealers and department stores last month. The losses were offset by gains at grocery stores, gasoline stations, restaurants, clothiers and building material stores.

The figures suggest that Americans are hesitant to spend, which could limit growth for the economy. Retail sales are closely watched because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity.

Retail sales have flat-lined even though employers have added more than 200,000 jobs a month for the past six months. Payrolls increased by 209,000 in July and 298,000 in June.

But those gains have yet to meaningfully boost wage growth above inflation, causing spending to be more restrained.

Retail sales have increased 3.7 per-

cent over the past 12 months, but economists doubt that spending can grow much faster unless in-

to finance sustained gains above 4 percent," said Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Mac-

spending is off to a slow start in the third quarter.

Consumer spending did pick up in the April-June quarter after a sluggish showing in the first three months of the year. It grew at a 2.5 percent annual pace, after increasing just 1.2 percent in the first quarter, which was the weakest reading in nearly three years. In a healthy economy spending growth is typically 3 percent or higher.

Americans are sending mixed signals about their willingness to spend. Consumer confidence jumped to its highest level in nearly seven years in July, according to the Con-

ference Board. That suggests Americans may be more willing to open their wallets.

And auto sales grew 9 percent in July from a year earlier to 1.4 million, the best showing for July since 2006.

But purchases of large items like autos may be leaving many Americans with less money to spend on discretionary items like clothing and electronics. Rising grocery prices may have squeezed household budgets as well.

A separate measure of consumer sentiment by the University of Michigan, released last week, showed that confidence slipped last month. □



Conquisia Tyler, right, gives change to a customer at Sam's Club in Bentonville, Ark. The Commerce Department released mostly flat retail sales data for July on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Sarah Benthall)

comes increase. "Consumers just don't have the cash flow

roeconomics. The weak sales in July mean that consumer

US businesses boosted stockpiles 0.4% in June

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP)

— U.S. businesses added to their stockpiles at a slightly slower pace in June compared with May, possibly reflecting weaker sales in the past two months.

Business stockpiles increased 0.4 percent in June on a seasonally adjusted basis after a 0.5 percent gain in May, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Sales rose 0.3 percent in June, matching the May increase. Sales have slowed after rapid gains from February through April.

The sales slowdown was also evident in a separate report showing that July retail sales were flat. But analysts say they think solid job growth will give a boost to consumer spending and

the economy in coming months. Many foresee an annual economic growth rate of around 3 percent in the second half of this year.



A manager at Best Buy moves inventory at their store in Oklahoma City. The Commerce Department released business inventories for June on Wednesday, August 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

The 0.4 percent rise in inventories in June was in line with economists' expectations. It reflected a 0.5 percent increase in inventories

held by retailers and 0.3 percent gains in inventories held by manufacturers and by wholesalers.

Inventory growth is closely watched by economists.



When companies add goods to store shelves and warehouses, it shows optimism about future demand. Increasing orders to

restock lifts factory production and overall economic growth.

In the April-June quarter, an acceleration in inventory building contributed 40 percent of the economy's 4 percent annual growth rate during the period.

That strong growth rebound followed the first three months of the year, when severe winter weather put the economy into reverse, shrinking at an annual rate of 2.1 percent. During the first quarter, the slowdown in inventory restocking subtracted 1.2 percentage points from growth.

For the rest of the year, most analysts predict that inventory building will support economic growth but will not exhibit the sharp swings seen in the first and second quarters. □

Entrepreneurship the answer for some with autism



Matt Cottle, owner of Stuttering King Bakery, smiles as he holds a tray of his scones in his parents' kitchen in Scottsdale, Ariz. Cottle is one of a few known small business owners with autism, a brain disorder that affects a person's ability to comprehend, communicate and interact socially.
(AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Matt Cottle asked his boss to let him work in the supermarket's bakery, she told him he'd never do anything more than collect grocery carts. After six years of bagging groceries and pushing carts, Cottle wanted more.

He had already learned how to do some baking. Cottle is autistic. And today he's an entrepreneur, the owner of Stuttering King Bakery, turning out batches of cookies, brownies and scones for cafes and businesses and groups that need catering. "I was like, OK, I am destined to do something

greater than that," Cottle says in the kitchen of his family's Arizona, home, where he spends hours each day filling orders. He generates \$1,200 monthly. He named the business for Britain's King George VI, whose struggles to speak were the subject of the film "The King's Speech." Cottle is one of a few

known small business owners with autism, a brain disorder that affects a person's ability to comprehend, communicate and interact socially. There are varying degrees of autism, but even autistic people with the greatest capabilities can find it impossible to get a job because they take longer to read or process information, or because they struggle to hold conversations. One in 68 people have some form of autism, according to government figures. There is a growing movement to help autistic adults find jobs, but for Cottle and his family, the answer was a business of his own. Cottle had taken training to do search and rescue operations. And he tried working in a bakery. Both times, he encountered people who didn't understand him, and who ended up yelling at and insulting him, his mother, Peg Cottle, says. He wanted to enroll in a culinary school, but an administrator gently told him and his parents it wouldn't work out. Four

years ago, the Southwest Autism Research and Research Center, or SAARC, connected Cottle with a pastry chef who mentored him. In August 2012, he unexpectedly got an order from a cafe operated by Phoenix-based SAARC. At that point, Cottle told his parents he was starting his own baking business. "I'm happy as an angel," he says. Many autistic people can run businesses if they're given the chance to discover something they like and develop skills around their interests, says Temple Grandin, one of the best-known advocates for people with autism. "If you get them exposed to something, they can get a career," says Grandin, author of "The Autistic Brain." Grandin, who has autism, didn't speak until she was four years old. In her teens, she was bullied by classmates who made fun of the way she spoke — she repeated the same phrases over and over.

Continued on Page 27

Times Square warnings cut into characters' tips

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bright red police leaflets warning Times Square tourists that photos with costumed characters are free, and tipping is optional, are taking a bite out of the bottom line for the many Elmos, Mickey Mouses, SpongeBobs and Statues of Liberty who dress up to help make ends meet. The blitz kicked off over the weekend, with officers handing out fliers in five languages. City officials say they had to take action after physical attacks on some visitors, including children. The unruliness peaked last month when a Spider-Man was accused of punching a police officer for telling a woman the character could not force her to pay up. Hours after the fliers started circulating Saturday, four fake superheroes were arrested for blocking pedes-

trians and grabbing one for a picture. Some of the mostly Spanish-speaking immigrants who wear the giant costumes say they have been left with far less to feed their families. "Photos with costumed characters are free. Tipping is optional," read the warnings in English, Spanish, Chinese, German and French. Visitors are told to find police or call the emergency dispatcher if they're being pressured for cash. Standing 7 feet (2.1 meters) tall and swathed in light green robes with an American flag pouring down her right arm, Lady Liberty — as played by Hugo Gomez, a 34-year-old Dominican immigrant with three children — has a prime spot in the middle of Times Square. He leaned down to whisper to a reporter that before the police-enforced



This undated image provided by the Times Square Alliance shows a detail from a leaflet being handed out by police in New York's Times Square informing tourists that photos with costumed characters are free and tipping is optional.
(AP Photo/Times Square Alliance)

measure, he drew about \$150 in tips each day. In recent days, he made about \$40. Gomez said he never begs. People still come to him, but the cash has shrunk. And standing on prosthetic devices for five-hour stretches is taking a toll, he said — without

much payoff. "My skin swells every day," he says, his eyes gleaming behind his mask. One Elmo who's losing money is angry at police. "All they say is, 'Go, go, go away, move, move, move!'" says Alberto Ramirez, a Peruvian native from New Jersey stand-

ing by the TKTS theater discount booth, where people in line behind barricades are an easy target. He says he pulled in \$20 for eight hours, half of the \$40 he made before, with five kids to feed. City officials say the warnings were needed to curtail any abuse. "They're doing it for people's safety," says Barati Narasim, a New York mother and software expert who offered a few dollars to a Spider-Man posing with her son and his friend. The City Council is working on a bill to require licensing, something Tim Tompkins, president of the Times Square Alliance, says would help legitimate operators by putting "bad players" out of business. Even Gomez, aka Lady Liberty, favors licensing. "We all know legalizing our work with a license," he says, "would make things normal, smoother." □

JAMES MARTIN & ASSOCIATES

Attorneys-at-Law / IP & Tax Attorneys

TO BE DELIVERED

Gerecht in Eerste Aanleg van Aruba
T.a.v. De WelEdelstrenge Vrouwe Mr. H. Mol en
De WelEdelgestrenge Heer Mr. W.J. Noordhuizen,
Rechter-Commissarissen in faillissementen en
surseances van betalingen
J.G. Emanstraat 51
Oranjestad

Mr. G. de Hoogd
Mr. G. Glas
Mrs. Mr. D.L. Emerencia
Mr. J.F.M. Zara
Mr. H.J. van der Wals
Mr. W.J. Voerman, Of-Counsel
Mr. J.E. Thijsen, Of-Counsel

L. Comvalius, Trademark Expert

F.N. Brongers, Associate

ALSO PER FAX: 582-1241

Aruba, 13 August 2014

By: Mr. G. de Hoogd, g.dehoogd@jamesmartin-associates.com

Our reference: GH/cvl

Your reference: EJ-2848/2013

Re: Creditors' meeting TDSRE & TDSGC; Tuesday, August 19, at 2 p.m.

Honorable Lady / Sir,

I am counsel of Ever Tech Construction Aruba NV and Strong Cactus Ltd., both creditors in abovementioned case.

Once definitive suspension of payments was granted to Tierra del Sol Real Estate NV and Tierra del Sol Golf Course NV, a creditors' meeting at which a draft agreement was made, was postponed several times. Now the creditors' meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19th at 14.00 hours.

Before I speak about the meeting and the draft agreement, I would like to give a little background information.

After TDSRE and TDSGC kept their creditors stringing along for years and created a debt of about Afl. 100 million - with a total of approximately 400 creditors - TDSRE and TDSGC

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eventually applied for and obtained a suspension of payment. In the context of the draft agreement, the same creditors are asked to write off their claims considerably.

In order to get to the opinion whether the offer is reasonable, the creditors should dispose of complete and honest information, the creditors should (for example) know whether the so-called buyer FMV will actually take the company over from the family Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen or is merely acting as a front man, the creditors should know whether the claims submitted by the Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen family in the suspension are reasonable, the creditors need to know whether the family Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen have committed mismanagement within TDSRE and TDSGC (*there are several strong indications that mismanagement has indeed occurred*), the creditors should know whether FMV is injecting fresh capital into the business and if so: how much, the creditors need to know if other buyers for TDSRE and TDSGC was looked for, and the creditors should be given a guarantee that a possible agreement will be honored.

That brings me to the following. Mr. Randolph van Eps in Curacao will act as

administrator in the suspension of payment. From the onset of the suspension the feeling arose among my clients that the administrator had more regard for the interests of the family Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen and FMV, than for the creditors. That my clients' feeling by now has been changed into conviction, I will further explain below.


The administrator has kept the creditors destitute of any information. An administrator reports on the condition of the estate every three months (Article 217 paragraph 1 Fv.). Inquiries with Your Registry on 11 August last made apparent that no (public) records were released at all. This is an infringement of the law. Furthermore, clients Ever Tech Construction Aruba NV and Strong Cactus Ltd. do not accept that they are only admitted up to 50% of their claims, respectively to a (conditional) claim of US \$ 250,000 whereas there is a sum of US \$ 2.1 million outstanding.

My clients neither accept the "bogus-claims" that the family Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen and affiliated entities have presented in the estate. With an appeal to Art. 255, paragraph 2, Fv., my clients challenge both the partial or conditional recognition of their own claims (they insist that they are recognized for 100%) as the "bogus-claims" of the family Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen and affiliated entities, as indicated.

In this context the following is also important. Adoption of the agreement is subject to approval by 2/3 of the recognized and admitted creditors, who together represent 3/4 of the amount of the recognized and admitted claims. With the "bogus-claims" of the family Van der Valk / Van den Nieuwenhuijzen and affiliated entities the administrator c.s. aim to retrieve the 2/3 majority. Furthermore, the administrator c.s. together with the small creditors of less than Afl. 2,000, who are (so-called) held out the prospect of obtaining 90% of their claim *in the distant future*, to reach the other majority of 3/4.

In anticipation of a creditors' meeting, I need - in addition to the information considered necessary in the fourth paragraph of this letter - the following information:

1. Clients do not have access to the financial figures of TDSRE, TDSGC and FMV. Clients do not know whether the repayment arrangement, which is suggested in the draft agreement, is feasible. The creditor have had no perusal and / or information in the financial figures of TDSRE, TDSGC and FMV and the possible *cash flows* that were forecasted in order to determine the repayments to the creditors of TDSRE and TDSGC. That this repayment is complex (further) appears from the circumstantiality that the so-called Master Declaration on Tierra del Sol ends on December 31, 2015. As of that time TDRSE contrary to now – besides the home owners- will owe large contributions on the *unsold lots* (appr. 400) to Tierra del Sol Master Association (TDSMA) as regards maintenance fees. If TDRSE has the intention to honor the contemplated agreement (which I do not believe), these new obligations to TDSMA will also interfere with the payment to the creditors—in particular considering the poor economic situation in Aruba.
2. According to the draft agreement FMV is a potential prospective buyer of TDSRE and TDSGC. It is entirely unclear to clients at what price this would be. It's also unclear to clients whether other parties are invited to make an offer on TDSRE and TDSGC. How do clients, as being creditors, know whether this is at the best possible price? It seems to me that it should be audited by an independent accountant. Clients as creditors of TDSRE, suspect that between TDSRE and TDSGC on the one hand and FMV on the

<p>other –through intervention of the administrator - a deal was made where no one else can come between. It is remarkable that the administrator as the vendor only negotiates with one other party. As such one can never arrive at the highest possible price. A very important fact is that if the sale to FMV will take place and the repayment plan with the creditors of TDSRE TDSGC is accepted, the money due will be paid for a long period of time and not all at once. It seems in this highly unusual scenario so that the repayment plan that is proposed is funded by FMV <i>from the current business and is not financed with new money</i>. In other words, here too, besides the objections I expressed in item 1 of page 3 of this letter, there is no transparency in the deal towards the creditors of TDS.</p> <p>1. Clients would like to be able to inspect the entire financial situation, such as the turnaround plan, financial statements of TDSRE TDSGC, cash flow forecasts, etc. In addition, the bank seems willing to do the refinancing. So there will be a plan in which profits are made in order to pay back the loans and the interest on it. Why can clients not peruse this plan?</p> <p>Due to the fact that clients need the aforementioned additional information - as well as copies of the quarterly reports of the administrator – in order to be able to form an opinion about the draft agreement, my clients request to postpone the consultation and vote of the agreement on August 19 <i>to a later day</i> (Article 253 paragraph 1. Fv.). Could you confirm this postponement <u>by Friday, August 15th at 12.00 at the latest?</u> Thanking you in advance.</p> <p>If under the current conditions you - and yet - decide to try the draft agreement and if that agreement shall then be "adopted", I can already inform you that clients, with an appeal to Articles 260, paragraph 1, and 261, paragraph 2 under 2 and 3 Fv. will request Your Court to refuse the homologation of the possible agreement.</p> <p>The main reason for this is the handling of the Unsecured Creditors, hereinafter referred to as "creditors TDSRE and TDSGC". To the creditors of TDSRE and TDSGC no guarantee is given for the repayment of the outstanding receivables. The proposed repayments vary between 25% and 90% and these repayments are (highly unusual) not made at once, but in a long series of small payments that lie in the distant future, so it is highly uncertain - in fact: very unlikely, given the serious defaults in the past and the new situation as of January 1, 2015 - whether these payments will actually take place. As such there is a lot of uncertainty among the creditors of TDSRE and TDSGC and many will therefore not agree to adopt the draft agreement.</p> <p>Below are listed the main reasons of clients for not accepting the draft agreement:</p> <p>1. The uncertainty about the actual repayment to creditors; <i>no guarantee is given at all</i>.</p> <p>2. The particular way of refunding, which ranges from 25% to 90% depending on the size of the debt which TDSRE and TDSGC have to creditors. How this distribution is determined is not clear and is - also - highly unusual.</p>	<p>3. The draft agreement seems to be an attempt to deceive small creditors besides the other creditors – of less than Afl. 2,000 –by “seducing”them with a so-called bid of 90% - that (most) probably will not be paid and is not guaranteed - to accept in order to achieve the required $\frac{3}{4}$ under Art.257 paragraph 1 Fv.</p> <p>4. The draft agreement is an attempt to favor the Van der Valk/Van den Nieuwenhuijzen family and affiliated entities in combination with the help of other unfair means which I have already explained in this letter, whether or not the debtor or someone else have collaborated therewith.</p> <p>In consideration of the matters dealt with by me in this letter, my clients believe that the current administrator for several reasons has (grossly) failed to correctly fulfill his duties and they therefore request Your Court to dismiss Mr. Randolph van Eps, ex Art . 214, paragraph 2 Fv. as administrator and to be replaced by another. Alternatively my clients request Your Court, given the magnitude of this bankruptcy case, to add one or more administrators, whereas my clients would appreciate to be heard before another administrator be appointed or added.</p> <p>In Article 215 paragraph 2 Fv. is laid down that Your Honor is competent to make such provisions during the moratorium that Your Honor deems necessary to protect the interests of creditors. In that regard, my clients request Your Court - vide the provisions of Art. 216 Fv., paragraph 1 Fv. - to appoint one or more experts, in order to conduct an investigation into the condition of the estate and draw up a substantiated report of their findings within a period to be determined (which must be before the draft agreement is be voted on). This request is also justified now that clients expected (detailed) reporting under Art. 217 Fv., but which the administrator (unfortunately) has not complied with.</p> <p>I trust to have you informed duly and I ask you urgently to a.s.a.p. decide on my clients' requests.</p> <p>Thanking you in advance.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,  G. de Hoogd</p> <p>cc. Van Eps Kunneman Van Doorne (offices Curacao and Aruba) HBN Law All creditors of TDSRE and TDSGC (through several newspapers)</p>
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JOLLY PIRATES

SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING
DAILY 9am - 1pm \$60 pp
 Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,
 Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

AFTERNOON CRUISE
DAILY 2pm - 5pm \$45 pp
 Our shorter snorkel cruise, with
 Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!

DAILY SUNSET SAIL
DAILY 5:30pm - 7:30pm \$32 pp
 Enjoy spectacular sunset. Open
 Bar & Ropeswing included

\$10^{off}

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations ONLY - Present coupon at boarding

586 8107/592 7858

Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise

Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise

CARIBBEAN NEWS BITES

Dominican star, 23, sentenced in smuggling case

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — A court in the Dominican Republic has sentenced the winner of a Latin American TV talent show to seven years in prison after she pleaded guilty to trafficking heroin. Singer Martha Heredia was accused last year of stuffing 2.9 pounds (1.3 kilograms) of heroin into the heels of three pairs of platform shoes. She was arrested in February 2013 as she prepared to board a flight to New York. Heredia said during her sentencing Tuesday that she made a mistake and wants to change. A panel of three judges also ordered Heredia to pay a \$2,300 penalty.

Jamaica police suspended after inmate killed

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Six police officers have been suspended in Jamaica amid an investigation into the fatal beating of an inmate. Authorities say the officers were on duty when 31-year-old Mario Dean was apparently beaten by prisoners in his cell on Aug. 3. He died on Aug. 6. Police said Tuesday that two inmates have been charged with the killing and that the investigation is ongoing. The beating occurred in the northwest parish of St. James. □

Cuba marks Castro's 88th with tributes, photo show

PETER ORSI
Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba marked Fidel Castro's 88th birthday Wednesday with tributes in official media, a concert and a photo exhibit in the capital and a newly inaugurated restoration of the home where he was born. Loathed by many exiles in Florida who see him as a man who ruled with an

"Paying homage to Fidel is a great party," Communist Party daily Granma said.

Castro retired for good in 2008 following a near-fatal illness, ceding power to his younger brother and designated successor, Raul, who turned 83 in June. The younger Castro says he intends to leave office by the time his current term is up in 2018,

who continue to occupy many top positions.

"Eighty-eight years, that's a lot, and in a way the advanced age of the majority of the leaders is worrying," said Frank Jimenez, a 67-year-old retiree in Havana. "With the exception of Diaz-Canel, they're around 80 years old. I think they should have prepared more young people ...

Jose Marti. Revolution-era figures such as Jose Ramon Fernandez, Guillermo Garcia Frias and Armando Hart attended, as did famed Cuban ballerina Alicia Alonso.

Island officials said a parallel show was put on in a gallery in Berlin.

Cuban newspaper Trabajadores said the restoration of Castro's birth home in Biran, in the eastern province of Holguin, was carried out by the Havana Historian's Office and workers from a state-run construction concern. The touch-up at the rural estate also included several other structures such as the family pantheon where Fidel and Raul Castro's parents were laid to rest, a school where they studied as young boys and huts where Haitian plantation workers lived.

Despite being out of power and out of the limelight, Castro still casts a long shadow. He meets regularly with visiting foreign dignitaries, most recently presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and China's Xi Jinping. Castro has also continued to author newspaper columns that usually touch on world current events such as the Ukraine crisis and a recent summit of BRICS nations in Brazil. Last week, state media published a piece in which Castro sharply criticized Israel's offensive in Gaza, calling it a "genocide that is being committed against the Palestinians" and warning of a "Palestinian Holocaust." □



A girl attends an exhibition of photographs of Fidel Castro by photographer Roberto Chile at the Jose Marti Memorial in Havana, Cuba. Castro celebrated his 88th birthday on Wednesday, August 13, 2014. (AP Photo / Ramon Espinosa)

iron fist and stamped out civil liberties, Castro was celebrated on the island as a fighter for equality and social justice who defied the United States for five decades.

"Eighty-eight more reasons to continue fighting for the salvation of humanity," read a headline in the newspaper Juventud Rebelde.

and last year he named a next-generation heir-apparent in First Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel. Fidel Castro rarely appears in public these days, and in recent years has not taken part in official celebrations of his birthday. Still, the milestone was another reminder that the clock is ticking for aging revolutionaries

they need that to move forward."

The photo exhibit, titled "Fidel is Fidel," is a collection of images of Fidel Castro taken between 2005 and 2012 by Roberto Chile, who had access to the Cuban leader for more than 25 years.

It opened Tuesday evening at Havana's memorial to independence hero

Greek economy contracts at slowest rate since 2008

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece's economy is shrinking at its slowest rate in nearly six years, official figures showed Wednesday, reinforcing hopes that the end of the country's punishing recession is in sight.

The Statistical Authority said Greece's economy was only 0.2 percent smaller in the second quarter than it had been a year earlier — the lowest since the third quarter of 2008. In the first quarter, the Greek economy was 1.1 percent smaller, slightly worse than previously thought. The statistics office does not publish quarterly figures.

After six years of recession brought on by the global financial crisis and Greece's homegrown debt problems, many economists are predicting modest growth in the second half of 2014. Since the recession started in 2008, Greece's economy has shrunk by around a quarter, partly because the government had to impose tough deficit-slashing measures, such as spending cuts and tax hikes, to get its public finances into shape in return for interna-

tional bailout loans from its European euro partners and the International Monetary Fund. Its recession — some refer to it as a depression — is one of the worst to afflict the Western world

within industry and among consumers, despite an expected tourism boon.

"Growth remains too weak for the country to reduce its huge public debt without significantly more out-

in what is now the 18-country eurozone. The country, which had to seek its first bailout in May, 2010 after being locked out of international bond markets, is even managing to tap in-



Greece's Deputy Finance Minister Christos Staikouras talks to reporters while presenting budget execution figures at the finance ministry in central Athens, on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. Greece's economy is shrinking at its slowest rate in nearly six years, boosting hopes that the end of the punishing recession is in sight. (AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

since the end of World War II. Capital Economics analyst James Howat said the Greek economy appears to be "slowly emerging from the abyss." But he warned that recovery remains anemic, particularly

side help," he said.

After years of austerity and bailout, Greece's budgetary position is certainly a lot better than it was when the debt crisis really erupted in late 2009 and threatened the country's future

vestors again.

On Wednesday, Europe's bailout fund approved the release of another 1 billion euros in rescue loans to Greece, bringing the total disbursed so far to just under 142 billion euros. □

Bank of England notes caution on UK wage growth

DANICA KIRKA

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Bank of England modestly upgraded its growth forecast for the U.K. on Wednesday but signaled its concerns over the failure of wages, which are actually falling for the first time since 2009, to keep track with the projected expansion.

In its quarterly economic projections, the bank raised its 2014 growth forecast to 3.5 percent from 3.4 percent and Governor Mark Carney said the momentum is looking more assured, with unemployment expected to drop below 6 percent by the end of the year. Figures earlier showed the unemployment down at 6.4 percent in the April to June period, its lowest rate in nearly 6 years.

However, the bank halved its forecast for wage growth in 2014 to a below-inflation 1.25 percent.

"This expansion faces some challenges," Carney said, noting that geopolitical risks have intensified and that financial conditions were likely to become tighter as the global recovery progresses.

"Sustained expansion here at home will ultimately require growth in productivity and real incomes, both of which have disappointed," he said. Figures from the Office of National Statistics showed that pay including bonuses in the April to June period was 0.2 percent lower than a year earlier, due to an unusually high growth rate a year ago. Whatever the reason, that was the first time wages have fallen since May, 2009 when Britain was, like much of the world, mired in a deep recession following the global financial crisis. If bonuses were excluded, the growth rate measured at 0.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

Carney acknowledged that the weakness in wages means that the measure of "slack" in the economy had been greater than previously thought. □

Japan's economy shrinks as tax hike hits spending

YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — The Japanese economy shrank at an annual pace of 6.8 percent in the second quarter after spending got slammed by a sales tax hike that kicked in from April, government figures showed Wednesday.

Japan's gross domestic product, or the total output of goods and services, also contracted 1.7 percent during the April-June period from the previous quarter.

The decline in GDP was the worst since the March 2011 tsunami and quake disaster in northeastern Japan. In the first quarter of 2011, Japan's economy shrank at an annual rate of 6.9 percent.

The weak figures were expected as consumers and businesses had front-

loaded spending in the first quarter to beat the April 1 increase in sales tax. Economists expect spending to pick up again in coming months.

The results were a stark contrast to the annual 6.1 percent growth in the first quarter of the year, which reflected the buying rush to beat the tax rise.

The government, under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his "Abenomics" strategy, has been trying to pull world's third-biggest economy out of two decades of stagnation by expanding the money supply, freeing up regulations and encouraging the yen to fall, a move that helps exporters such as Toyota Motor Corp. and camera maker Canon Inc.

But the government is also concerned about ballooning public debt and raised

the consumption tax to 8 percent from 5 percent to shore up its coffers.

Previous administrations have been nervous about raising taxes for fear the economy will slide into a recession. The Japanese economy has been eking out growth or at least staying flat in recent quarters, thanks partly to Abenomics.

Yasunari Ueno, chief market economist at Mizuho Securities Co. in Tokyo, said the second quarter contraction was within his expectations, but the slowdown reflected not only the tax hike but also lower incomes and price increases from other sources.

"The impact from the tax is going to be short-term," Ueno said. "But the economy is ailing, and that's not good." □

Public spending could prop up growth in the near term, he said. Even then, it will be hard for any expansion to immediately and totally make up for the big drop for the latest quarter, he said.

Dramatic wage increases are not likely in Japan, and the recent trend of rising prices is part of Abe's strategy to reverse Japan's debilitating spiral of deflation, or falling prices. Others were more optimistic.

"We believe real GDP will return to growth exceeding potential," in the next quarter, Kyohei Morita and Yuichiro Nagai of Barclays said in a report.

They noted leading economic indicators have started to turn up already, such as public works and housing construction orders. □



Ling & Sons Gets Reward Abroad As Retailer of the Year!



ORANJESTAD - Ling & Sons received an award last weekend in Miami as the Retailer of the Year in the category of perishable merchandise. This award was given by the supermarket's purveyor in the U.S. who provides the store with quality and variety in perishable as well as grocery merchandise on a weekly basis. This recognition is awarded yearly to the fastest growing retailer in the category which Ling & Sons

is very appreciative and honored to bring home. The award was received by General Manager Wilfried Cobussen who could not wait to get back to Aruba to share the great news with all employees. Monday August 11 the day finally came to share the news and awards with the employees who were pleasantly surprised and proud of their accomplishment. In early 2013 Ling & Sons received another reward



as the IGA retailer of the year. The supermarket was recognized as the best

American style IGA supermarket in the Caribbean and for its great work

within the community. This year, the Ling & Sons team is ecstatic to be able to share another great accomplishment with all employees and especially the customers who shop at Ling & Sons all year round at the store and are the store's motivation to keep up the great work of bringing all customers the best quality and service! For more information visit www.lingandsons.com or facebook page "Lingand-Sons IGA". □

Loyal Visitors Honored by Aruba Tourism Authority



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic

honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Toni and Adeline Avila of Bristol,

Rhode Island, who brought a group of 16 family members with them on this trip to Aruba, John and Marie Reda of Staten Island, New York, James and Judith Alexander of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, and Steven and Kathy Goldenberg of

Elmwood Park, New Jersey. All the honorees are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, Casinos and being on Aruba and staying at

the Paradise is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Milca Erasmus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. □

Diamonds International Supports 'Adopt A Child' Program



ORANJESTAD - Once again this year Diamonds International Aruba's employees joined forces and collected funds amongst themselves to help out two deserving children in need to help purchase all of their back to school supplies and uniforms. We were all highly moved



to see the big smiles on these children's faces once they received their backpacks filled with all of their supplies, uniforms, sneakers and their tuition were all paid in full.

'Adopt A Child' is a program founded to help out the children of Aruba who are in need of assistance and do not have the resources to purchase their back to school supplies

and pay for their tuition. Every year local companies 'adopt' a number of children to help out in the quest to better the future of our children. To a great new school year ahead!

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Aruba Says "Masha Danki" to Loyal Guests of Divi Resorts



DRUIF BEACH - Recently, Ms. Darline S. de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the pleasure of honoring two special and loyal guests to the island as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of

the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation for guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees are Mr. Domingo and Mrs. Cathy Manzon, residents of Jacksonville, Florida. The certificate was pre-



sented to them by Ms. Darline de Cuba representing Aruba Tourism Authority in presence of Mrs. Hilda Mills

Representative of Divi Resorts. The reasons they gave for returning to Aruba year af-

ter year are the fantastic sunsets, beautiful blue sea, our friendly people and the diverse restaurants. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



In this Nov. 14, 2013, file photo, Major League Baseball Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred talks to the media following baseball's general managers' meetings in Orlando, Fla.

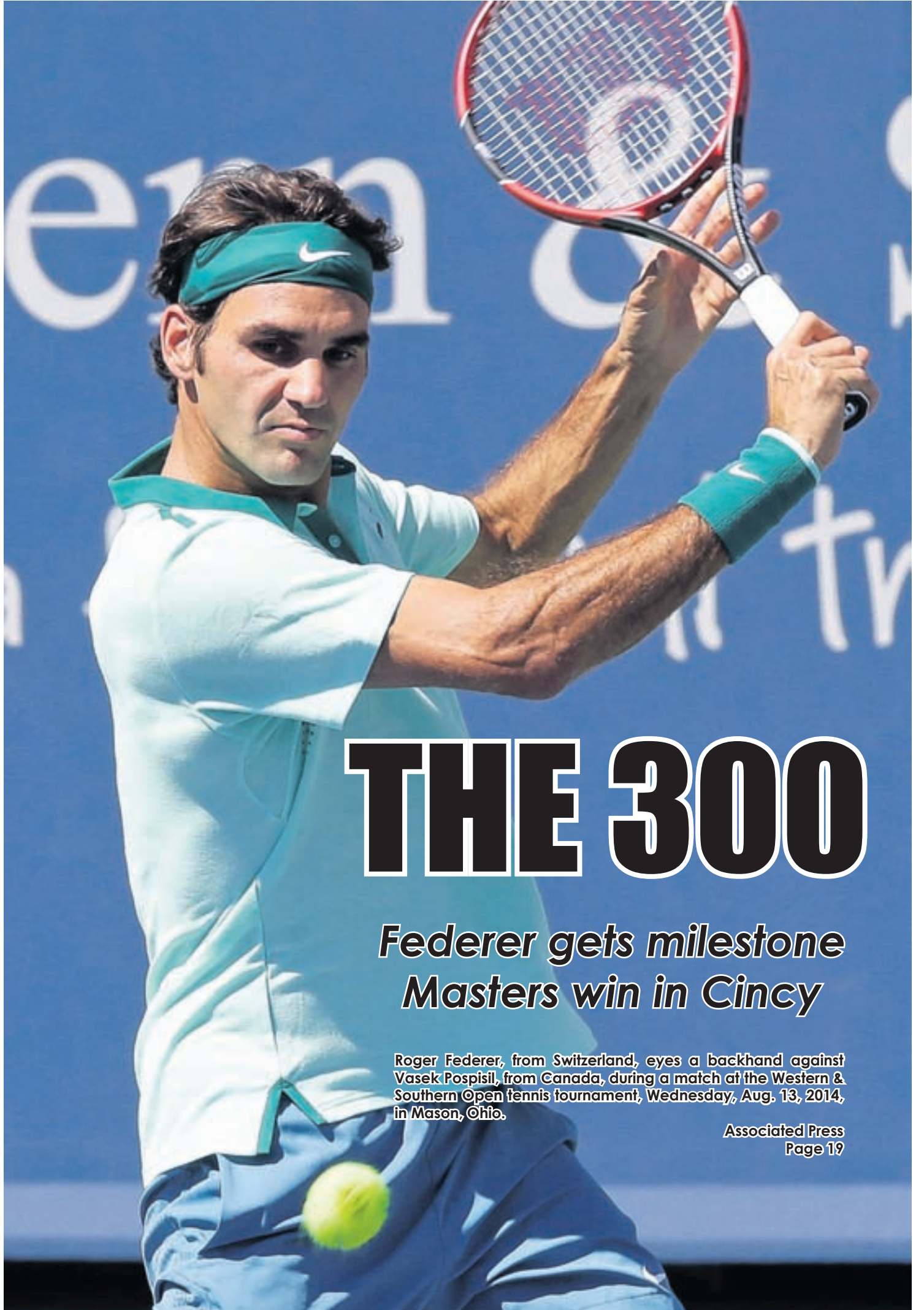
Associated Press

Commissioner candidates make pitches ahead of vote

By RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) -- The three candidates in Major League Baseball's first contested election for a new commissioner in 46 years made presentations to the 30 teams Wednesday, a day ahead of the vote. MLB Chief Operating Officer Rob Manfred, Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner and MLB Executive Vice President of Business Tim Brosnan addressed team executives at a hotel a few blocks from Camden Yards in attempts to gain the 23 votes needed to replace Bud Selig in January. They spoke for about an hour apiece, including PowerPoint presentations, and the owners attended an evening reception at the B&O Warehouse behind the ballpark's right-field wall. The executives will split into three groups of 10 for question-and-answer sessions Thursday before the vote, which will take place by secret written ballot.

Continued on Next Page



THE 300

Federer gets milestone Masters win in Cincy

Roger Federer, from Switzerland, eyes a backhand against Vasek Pospisil, from Canada, during a match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press
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Woods pulls out of U.S. Ryder Cup consideration

Tiger Woods has removed himself from consideration for a U.S. Ryder Cup captain's pick because of back problems. Woods posted a statement on his website Wednesday, saying: "I've been told by my doctors and trainer that my back muscles need to be rehabilitated and healed. They've advised me not to play or practice now." Woods' season ended last week when he missed the cut by five shots in the PGA Championship, his fourth event since having surgery to alleviate pain from a pinched nerve. The week before the PGA, he withdrew from the Bridgestone Invitational in the final round because of back pain that he said was unrelated to the microdiscectomy surgery in March. □



Tiger Woods wins after tee shot on the sixth hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Valhalla Golf Club on Friday, Aug. 8, 2014, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

Candidates

Continued from Page 17

A three-quarters majority is needed for election.

"That certainly is the goal," New York Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said. "That's why we're all here." Manfred was estimated to have the support of 20-21 teams headed into the meetings, Werner of about six and Brosnan one: the Cincinnati Reds. There is no limit to the number of ballots, and it remained possible no one would gain election.

"I wouldn't even guess," Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno said.

Werner is supported by Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf and Moreno. Other teams have said Reinsdorf wants a commissioner who will take a harsher stance in labor negotiations for the deal to replace the collective bargaining agreement that expires after the 2016 season.

"I haven't been counting votes," Reinsdorf said. "I don't know where anybody stands."

Selig, 80, has ruled baseball since September 1992, first as chairman of baseball's executive council



In this April 24, 2013, file photo, Major League Baseball Executive Vice President of Business Tim Brosnan speaks during a news conference to outline the festivities for baseball's All-Star game in New York.

Associated Press

cil and since July 1998 as commissioner. The second-longest-serving head of baseball behind Kenesaw Mountain Landis (1920-44), Selig announced last fall that he plans to retire in January 2015. The trio of candidates was picked by a seven-man succession committee chaired by St. Louis Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr.

Manfred, 55, has been involved in baseball since 1987, starting as a lawyer with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius who assisted in collective bargaining. He became MLB's executive vice



In this Nov. 1, 2013, file photo, Boston Red Sox Chairman Tom Werner holds the World Series trophy on the court before an NBA basketball game between the Boston Celtics and the Milwaukee Bucks in Boston.

Associated Press

president for labor relations and human resources in 1998, received an expanded role of executive vice president of economics and league affairs in 2012 and last September was promoted to chief operating officer. He helped lead negotiations for baseball's last three labor contracts with players and the joint drug agreement that was instituted in 2002 and has been repeatedly strengthened.

Werner, 64, was the controlling owner of the San Diego Padres from 1990-94, triggering fan criticism for

the payroll-paring departures of Fred McGriff, Gary Sheffield, Tony Fernandez, Randy Myers and Benito Santiago. He has been part of the Red Sox ownership group since 2002, a period that included three World Series titles. While working at ABC, he helped develop Robin Williams' "Mork & Mindy" and later was executive producer of "The Cosby Show" and "Roseanne" at The Carsey-Werner Co., which he ran with Marcy Carsey.

Brosnan, 56, was hired by MLB as vice president of international business affairs in 1991, became chief operating officer of Major League Baseball International in 1994 and senior vice president of domestic and international properties in 1998. He has held his current role since 2000. A lawyer like Manfred, he has been a key figure in the negotiations of MLB's national broadcasting contracts.

MLB's last contested election for commissioner was after Spike Eckert was fired in December 1968. With the requirement then a three-quarters majority in both the American and National leagues, teams split between San Francisco Giants vice president Chub Feeney and Yankees president Michael Burke

and failed to elect anyone during 19 ballots during a meeting on Dec. 20-21 that ended at 5:05 a.m.

Bowie Kuhn, a partner at the law firm Willkie Farr & Gallagher and counsel to baseball's Player Relations Committee, was elected commissioner pro-tem on Feb. 4, 1969, with a one-year term. He was voted a seven-year term that August and remained in office until October 1984, when he was replaced by Los Angeles Olympics head Peter Ueberroth.

Former Yale President A. Bartlett Giamatti took over from Ueberroth in April 1989, died later that September and was replaced by his deputy commissioner, Fay Vincent. Selig, then the Milwaukee Brewers owner, teamed with Reinsdorf to head the group that pressured for Vincent's forced resignation in September 1992.

Selig led baseball as head of the executive council for nearly six years, including the 7 1/2-month strike in 1994-95 that canceled the World Series. He repeatedly said he wouldn't take the job fulltime before he formally was voted commissioner in July 1998.

Ueberroth, Giamatti, Vincent and Selig were elected unanimously. □

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Federer gets 300th Masters win in Cincy



Roger Federer, from Switzerland, volleys against Vasek Pospisil, from Canada, during a match at the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014, in Mason, Ohio.

Associated Press

JOE KAY
AP Sports Writer

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Roger Federer won his opening match at the Western & Southern Open on Wednesday, a three-set victory over Vasek Pospisil that was his 300th career victory during a Masters tournament. He's the first player to reach the mark — Rafael Nadal is second with 281 such wins. After a two-hour struggle, the second-seeded Federer finished off Pospisil 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-2 and advanced in his quest for an unprecedented fifth title in Cincinnati. The 300 wins "is a nice, round number," Federer said. "I've had some more important ones over the

one today. Nevertheless, it's nice to reach such milestones." Federer didn't take control until the middle of the third set, when he broke Pospisil's serve twice for a 4-1 lead. Both players were sloppy in the breezy conditions. "You just hope to get through the first match in tough conditions," Federer said. "It's important to stay calm even though it's frustrating for much of the match." Top-seeded Serena Williams kept her poise, rallying from behind in both tiebreakers for a 7-6 (7), 7-6 (7) win over Samantha Stosur, the Australian player who beat her in the 2011 U.S. Open final. "It's good when you play

a lot of close matches and you come out on top — I'm defeated, I'm down and I come back and win," she said. "That's very good." Stosur got ahead 4-0 in the first tiebreaker before Williams rallied. Stosur had two set points in the second tiebreaker, but hit a shot into the net and another one long. Williams clinched it when Stosur dumped another shot into the net. "Against a player like that you think, 'Oh, there is a chance there,'" Stosur said. "More often than not they come up with the goods to shut you down." By contrast, Andy Murray needed little more than an hour to win his opening match, facing only three

break points — and fending all of them off — during a 6-3, 6-3 win over Joao Sousa. Murray is still trying to return to form following back surgery last September. He also made a break with coach Ivan Lendl in March that was a big adjustment. "It's been a tough year," Murray said. "There have been a few things happen. Obviously coming back from surgery is hard. To me now, that isn't in any way an excuse. Now I have had enough time to get over it. Obviously with Ivan, that was also tough." No. 4 Tomas Berdych was ousted in a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 upset loss to Yen-Hsun Lu. John Isner, who lost the Cincin-

nati final last year to Nadal, moved on with a solid 6-3, 7-6 (1) victory over Marinko Matosevic. "I played so unbelievably well here last year," Isner said. "I'm off to a very good start this year. I love this tournament. I feel very comfortable here." There was an upset in the women's draw. Third-seeded Petra Kvitova had trouble with her serve and lost to Elina Svitolina 6-2, 7-6 (2). Kvitova had nine double-faults and made just 52 percent of her first serves. "I'm disappointed how I played today, for sure," she said. "From the beginning, I didn't feel very comfortable out there." □

Haren, Dodgers beat hapless Braves again, 4-2

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Dan Haren pitched six solid innings and sparked the go-ahead rally with a single, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to another win over the skidding Atlanta Braves, 4-2 on Tuesday night.

Haren (10-9) allowed a fourth-inning homer to B.J. Upton that put the Braves up 2-1, but the light-hitting pitcher came through with a one-out single to right in the fifth. Carl Crawford followed with a double, and Haren scored the tying run on Yasiel Puig's grounder to third. Matt Kemp hit a little blooper to right that just got over the glove of second baseman Tommy La Stella, bringing home Crawford. That was enough for the Dodgers.

Mike Minor (4-8) matched his longest outing of the past month after being skipped his previous turn in the rotation. The Atlanta lefty went 6 2-3 innings, allowing eight hits and all three Dodgers run.

PIRATES 4, TIGERS 2

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Edinson Volquez allowed two runs over six innings and the Pirates jumped on the Tigers early in a victory.

Volquez (10-7) struck out five and walked two against five hits to improve to 6-1 in his last seven decisions.

Travis Snider went 2 for 4 with an RBI for the Pirates. Gaby Sanchez and Ike Da-



Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman Darwin Barney (30) scores on a wild pitch in the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in Atlanta. The Dodgers won 4-2.

Associated Press

vis added RBI doubles and Jordy Mercer chipped in a run-scoring single.

Alex Avila hit his ninth homer of the season for Detroit. Robbie Ray (1-2) gave up four runs in five-plus innings while making a spot start for the weary Tigers. Detroit has lost six of seven as it battles surging Kansas City for the lead in the AL Central.

CUBS 3, BREWERS 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Rookie Kyle Hendricks pitched 7 1-3 innings of six-hit ball in his third consecutive win, and the Cubs cooled off Wily Peralta and the Brewers. Hendricks (4-1) struck out five and walked one in

his third consecutive win, continuing an impressive opening run for his major league career.

Anthony Rizzo hit his 26th homer for Chicago, which had lost three of four.

Trying for a major league-high 15th win, Peralta (14-7) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6 1-3 innings.

NATIONALS 7, METS 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Taylor homered in his big league debut, setting off a silly sequence to retrieve the souvenir, and the Nationals backed Doug Fister with four long shots in a romp over the Mets.

Bryce Harper homered early, then Anthony Rendon,

Ian Desmond and Taylor connected in the sixth inning as the NL East leaders won their ninth straight at Citi Field.

Promoted from Triple-A over the weekend, Taylor singled in his first at-bat and later hit a two-run drive the opposite way at one of the majors' most spacious parks. Fister (12-3) came back from a 25-minute rain delay and pitched seven shutout innings. He gave up seven hits, walked none and struck out three.

Rafael Montero (0-3) was tagged for three homers and five runs in five-plus innings.

MARLINS 3, CARDINALS 0

MIAMI (AP) — Jarred Cosart pitched seven innings in a duel with Adam Wainwright to earn his first victory for the Marlins, who beat the Cardinals.

Cosart allowed three hits and one walk to win for the first time since July 7. The victory came in his second start for Miami after being acquired from Houston in a trade for prospects.

He's 1-1 with Miami and 10-7 overall this year.

Wainwright (14-7), making his first start against the Marlins since 2010, missed a chance to become the first 15-game winner in the majors.

He went seven innings and allowed three runs, with two coming on a home run off the foul pole by Donovan Solano.

PADRES 4, ROCKIES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Odriamer Despaigne pitched five-hit ball for seven innings, leading the Padres to a win over the Rockies for their fourth straight win. Despaigne (3-3) struck out eight and walked two for San Diego, which has won 10 of 13. Chris Nelson drove in two runs in the eighth inning for the Padres.

Alexi Amarista and Abraham Almonte also drove in runs. Yasmani Grandal had two of the Padres' six hits.

Yohan Flande (0-5) went six innings and gave up four hits and two runs as Colorado lost for the fifth time in six games. □



Swimmer Amy Van Dyken leaving Colorado hospital

ENGLEWOOD, Colorado (AP)

— Olympic swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen is being released from a Denver-area hospital to continue her rehabilitation after an all-terrain vehicle crash left the 41-year-old paralyzed just below the waist.

Van Dyken-Rouen is leaving Craig Hospital on Thursday, just over two months after the acci-

dent in Arizona on June 6.

The six-time Olympic gold medalist will speak to media after her release. She has been keeping fans informed about her recovery on social media, including boasting on Twitter earlier this month that she had finally graduated from a hospital bed to a regular bed. She also posted a photo of her new wheelchair. □

In this June 18, 2014 file photo, six-time Olympic gold medal swimmer Amy Van Dyken-Rouen smiles and gestures as she is transferred to her room after arriving at Craig Hospital, in Englewood, Colo.

Associated Press

Cespedes' homer lifts Red Sox to 3-2 win over Reds

The Associated Press

RED SOX 3, REDS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Yoenis Cespedes hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, lifting the Red Sox to a win over the Reds.

One pitch after ducking away from Jonathan Broxton's high-and-inside fastball, Cespedes launched a no-doubt, 433-foot drive to center field with two outs and Brock Holt on second base to give Boston back-to-back victories for the first time since a five-game winning streak from July 13-20. Cespedes hit his 19th homer of the season and second with Boston — one in each of the last two games.

Tommy Layne (1-0) got the final out of the seventh inning for the win. Broxton (4-1) was the loser.

Mat Latos retired 11 straight batters before Daniel Nava led off the seventh with a double. Xander Bogaerts snapped a 0-for-15 slump with an RBI single.

RANGERS 3, RAYS 2, 14 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Carlos Ramos walked Adam Rosales with two outs in the 14th inning to force in the winning run and the Rangers beat Tampa Bay. Ramos (2-5), the Rays' seventh pitcher, walked Ro-

sales on four pitches, allowing pinch-running pitcher Nick Martinez to score.

Texas' sixth pitcher, Scott Baker (1-3) earned the victory with two scoreless innings. The Rangers had lost all 20 games in which he appeared before Tuesday.

MARINERS 6, BLUE JAYS 3

SEATTLE (AP) — Kyle Seager and Kendrys Morales hit solo home runs, Dustin Ackley added a key two-out two-run single, and the Mariners moved into a tie for the second AL wild card with a win over the Blue Jays.

Seattle won for the seventh time in eight games to catch Detroit in the wild-card race.

Young (11-6) pitched six strong innings, allowing just two hits. He yielded a first-inning run after walking Jose Reyes on four pitches and giving up Melky Cabrera's RBI double to start the game.

Young retired 14 straight after Cabrera's double.

Toronto starter J.A. Happ (8-7) gave up seven hits and struck out only one in six innings after recording 12 strikeouts in his last start.

ASTROS 10, TWINS 4

HOUSTON (AP) — Chris Carter homered twice and tied a career high with five

RBI to lead the Astros over Minnesota.

The game was tied in the third inning when Carter's two-out, two-run drive to the Crawford Boxes in left field put Houston up 3-1.

Carter connected again on his next at-bat with a three-run shot in the fifth which chased Minnesota rookie starter Yohan Pino (1-5).

Collin McHugh (5-9) allowed four hits and a run in six innings for the win.

Oswaldo Arcia homered twice for the Twins.

ATHLETICS 11, ROYALS 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Jon Lester pitched six strong innings and Josh Donaldson homered twice and drove in four runs as the Athletics beat Kansas City, snapping the Royals' eight-game winning streak. Lester (13-7) has won all three of his starts since the A's acquired him in July 31 trade for All-Star outfielder Yoenis Cespedes.

Lester struck out nine and allowed three runs on six hits and two walks.

The Royals have won 11 of 13 with both losses to Lester. Royals starter Jeremy Guthrie (8-10) allowed six runs on 11 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

WHITE SOX 3, GIANTS 2, 10 INNINGS



Boston Red Sox's pitcher Koji Uehara, left, celebrates with catcher Christian Vazquez at the end of a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in Cincinnati. The Red Sox won 3-2.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Gordon Beckham hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning and the White Sox beat the Giants after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth.

One batter after Jordan Danks was thrown out trying to score from third on a fielder's choice, Beckham hit an 0-1 pitch from San Francisco reliever Santiago Casilla (1-2) past shortstop Brandon Crawford into left field.

Sierra, who entered the game as a late defensive replacement, scored easily.

Adam Dunn hit a two-run home run off Giants starter Ryan Vogelsong in the first

inning for Chicago, which wasted another strong start by Chris Sale when reliever Jake Petricka gave up four hits in the ninth.

Zach Putnam (4-2) pitched 1 1-3 innings for the win. Sale struck out 12 and walked two over eight solid innings.

ANGELS 7, PHILLIES 2

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Kole Calhoun homered and had an RBI single during a seven-run sixth inning, and the Angels' struggling offense rebounded for a victory over the Phillies.

David Freese had a two-run double during the lengthy rally, which propelled Los Angeles to just its second win in seven games. □

Yu Darvish on DL with inflammation in right elbow

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)

— Japanese pitcher Yu Darvish has been placed on the 15-day disabled list because of inflammation in his right elbow. The Texas Rangers made the announcement Wednesday night, a day before the right-hander's scheduled start against Tampa Bay. The move was retroactive to Sunday, a day after he allowed six runs and nine hits over four innings in a loss at Texas. The Rangers say Darvish didn't have any issues during that game, but felt tightness when throwing on the side Monday. □



Texas Rangers starting pitcher Yu Darvish of Japan works against the New York Yankees in the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 28, 2014, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

PGA brought clarity to golf, excitement to majors

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (AP)

— The PGA Championship provided the kind of theater anyone could expect from a major. Big shots. Tiny mistakes. High stakes on every swing. Not even the confusion on the 18th hole, when the only major for professionals looked more like amateur hour, could take away from that.

But the best ever? Only a year ago, everyone was raving about Phil Mickelson turning in one of the great closing rounds in a major to win the British Open on a back nine with Adam Scott, Lee Westwood, Henrik Stenson and Tiger Woods in his way.

Four top players with a chance in the final hour? Been there, done that. As much as Pinehurst No. 2 is remembered for Payne Stewart's par putt, the 1999 U.S. Open came down to Stewart, Mickelson, Woods and Vijay Singh over the last three holes. Woods won the 2001 Masters to complete his sweep of the majors in a back-nine battle with Mickelson. They were No. 1 and No. 2 in the world, joined by David Duval. And those are just examples from the last 15 years. This PGA Championship stood out because it delivered great drama — and great timing. □

NBA schedule since LeBron to Miami for Christmas

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — LeBron James will play his first game since rejoining the Cleveland Cavaliers at home Oct. 30 against New York, then return to Miami for the first time on Christmas. The NBA regular season will open Oct. 28, with the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs hosting the Dallas Mavericks in one of the three games that night. The league released its schedule, featuring a lengthened All-Star break, on Wednesday night during an NBA TV special, with James' return to his original NBA team putting the Cavaliers in a number of prime positions.

That includes the game at Miami in the third spot on the five-game Christmas schedule, traditionally a highlight of the NBA season. James led the Heat to two championships and four NBA Finals appearances in four years before deciding to return to his native Ohio.



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James smiles as he is introduced at his homecoming at InfoCision Stadium Friday, Aug. 8, 2014, in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

The other Christmas day games are: Washington at New York; Oklahoma City at San Antonio in a rematch of the Western Conference finals; the Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago; and Golden State at the

Los Angeles Clippers.

The nightcap is a rematch of a testy Christmas night matchup from last season that featured multiple ejections. The Clippers then went on to beat the Warriors in seven games in the

first round of the playoffs.

The last game before the All-Star break in New York is Feb. 12, when the Cavaliers visit the Bulls. The regular season doesn't resume until the following Thursday, two days later than usual, with

a doubleheader on TNT.

The three-game opening night closes with Houston visiting the Lakers, which should feature Kobe Bryant's return from an injury-shortened 2013-14 season.

□

Mercury beat Liberty 76-64, clinch No. 1 in West

NEW YORK (AP) — Candice Dupree scored 18 points as Phoenix beat the New York Liberty 76-64 on Tuesday, giving the Mercury home-court advantage throughout the WNBA playoffs.

In the day's other game, Kristi Toliver scored 20 of her 29 points in the second half as the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Minnesota Lynx 71-63 to clinch a playoff spot.

Diana Taurasi had 14 points for Phoenix, while Brittney Griner scored 12 and Erin Phillips had 11. The Mercury (27-4) are the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference. Dupree moved into 20th place on the league's career scoring list with 4,247 points. Tina Charles scored 16 of her 26 points in the first quarter to keep New York (13-18) competitive early. The Liberty trailed 33-30 in the second quarter, be-

fore the Mercury scored the last 10 points of the half to take a 13-point lead at the break. Taurasi had five points and Anete Jekabsone-Zogota had a 3-pointer during the run.

Dupree's jumper gave Phoenix a 70-52 lead with 5:46 remaining in the fourth, and New York got no closer than 12 the rest of the way. SPARKS 71, LYNX 63

At Minneapolis, Candace Parker added 16 points for Los Angeles (15-17).

The Sparks are battling San Antonio for third place in the Western Conference. Minnesota has already clinched second place in the West. Maya Moore scored 20 points for the Lynx (24-8), who have lost two straight.

The Lynx led 63-62 with 2 minutes to play, but the Sparks closed the game on a 9-0 run. □



Minnesota Lynx guard Seimone Augustus (33) is fouled by Los Angeles Sparks guard Armintie Herrington (22) as she dribbles the ball down court in the second half of a WNBA basketball game, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014, in Minneapolis. The Sparks won 71-63.

Associated Press

Sterling loses appeal to block LA Clippers sale

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Donald Sterling's latest effort to block the \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer was rejected Wednesday by a California appeals court.

The 2nd Appellate District Court issued a brief ruling Wednesday saying it couldn't halt a sale that had been completed.

"The evidence before this court indicates the sale of the Los Angeles Clippers to Steven Ballmer has closed," the court wrote. "Thus, there is nothing for this court to stay."

Even if the sale hadn't closed, the three judges said Sterling failed to show he was harmed enough to get a temporary stay. Ballmer sealed the deal



In this Oct. 16, 2010, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers team owner Donald Sterling watches his team play the Utah Jazz during the second half of their preseason NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Tuesday after a probate court judge cleared the way for Sterling's estranged wife to sell the team following a trial in Los Angeles Superior Court. □

Apple's tech jobs held mostly by white, Asian men

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Apple primarily relies on white and Asian men for its top-paying technology jobs, feeding the perception that Silicon Valley's economic boom is largely excluding women, blacks and Hispanics.

A breakdown released Tuesday by Apple Inc. showed 54 percent of the company's technology jobs in the U.S. are filled by whites and another 23 percent by Asians. Men make up 80 percent of Apple's technology workforce throughout the world. The iPhone and iPad maker didn't provide racial statistics for its global workforce of 98,000 employees.

Apple's technological tilt toward white and Asian men is similar to situations previously disclosed during the past three months by other major Silicon Valley companies, including Google Inc., Yahoo Inc., Facebook Inc., Twitter Inc. and LinkedIn Corp.

Apple, the world's most valuable company, has the largest workforce among that group. A significant chunk of Apple's \$575 billion market value has enriched Apple programmers and other technology workers who received stock options to supplement their salaries, which routinely exceed \$100,000.

The tech companies have been sharing the demographic data that they compile for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under pressure from the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his Rainbow PUSH coalition. Jackson has been focusing on the tech companies because the industry has become a catalyst for new jobs and wealth as consumers buy more gadgets and spend more time immersed in digital services.

Like its peers, Apple acknowledged its workforce isn't as diverse as it should be. Apple CEO Tim Cook expressed his disappointment in a letter posted alongside the company's

data. Lower-level executives of the other tech companies had addressed diversity when they disclosed the compositions of their workforces.

"Let me say up front: As

to its eight-person board of directors last month. Even with those moves, 72 percent of Apple's leadership is made up of men.

Including non-tech jobs, Apple appears to be do-

world, including 254 U.S. locations. Overall, 11 percent of the employees in Apple's U.S. workforce are Hispanic and 7 percent are black. By comparison, 3 percent of Google's U.S.

generally have traced the scarcity of women, blacks and Hispanics in computer programming and engineering to flaws in the U.S. education system. Apple, Google and others are financing efforts to steer more women and minorities to math and science in high school.

A shortage of qualified women and minority candidates for technology jobs explains some, but not all, of the industry's bias toward white and Asian men, said Marianne Cooper, a sociologist at Stanford University's Clayman Institute and author of a new book called "Cut Adrift: Families in Insecure Times." She thinks most tech companies haven't done enough to attract women and minorities or make the field more welcoming.

"The tech boom has been something to behold in terms of being an economic engine, but more people need to be brought along that ride," Cooper said. □



June 24, 2009 file photo shows Apple headquarters in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

CEO, I'm not satisfied with the numbers on this page," Cook wrote. "They're not new to us, and we've been working hard for quite some time to improve them."

Jackson said he called Cook Tuesday to congratulate him for "stepping up to the plate" to discuss the data. "It shows his personal commitment and his leadership," Jackson said in a statement. "I urge him to take further bold steps to make Apple better, and leverage his leadership to make the whole industry better."

Apple has been an outspoken champion for diversity since Cook succeeded the late Steve Jobs as CEO nearly three years ago. The company has trumpeted the phrase, "Inclusion inspires innovation," as a rallying cry. Cook has reinforced that message on his Twitter account during the past two months with periodic posts supporting gay rights in the workplace.

As CEO, Cook also promoted Cuban-American Eddy Cue to Apple's executive team and hired a woman, Angela Ahrendts, to oversee its stores. The Cupertino, California-based company also added a second woman, Sue Wagner,

ing a slightly better job employing blacks and Hispanics than its peers. That may have to do with the thousands of sales jobs at its 427 stores around the

workers are Hispanic and 2 percent are black. At Facebook, 4 percent of its U.S. workers are Hispanic and 2 percent are black. Technology executives

High-res photo satellite launched from California

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) - A satellite designed to produce high-resolution images of Earth from space was launched Wednesday

from a military base on California's Central Coast. The commercial satellite known as Worldview-3 was sent into space atop an Atlas 5 rocket on a clear day from Vandenberg Air Force Base, military and company officials said.

Worldview-3 belongs to Longmont, Colorado-based DigitalGlobe and was built by Boulder-based Ball Aerospace. Lockheed Martin and the United Launch Alliance are also partners in the \$500 million project.

DigitalGlobe says the satellite will be able to capture images of objects as small as 1-foot across.

"From 400 miles we can see home plate of a base-

ball stadium," said DigitalGlobe Vice President for Technology Neal Anderson.

Until recently that was too small for government regulations to allow, but in June the company received permission from the U.S. Department of Commerce to sell images of objects down to about 10 inches.

The best resolution for the company's five satellites already in orbit is about 16 inches, said Walter Scott, founder and chief technical officer of the Longmont-based company.

The company provides images for government and private customers, including national security and defense agencies, NASA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and civil emergency responders. The 18-foot-long, 8-foot-



In this image provided by Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., a rocket launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014 carrying a satellite designed to produce high-resolution images of Earth from space.

Associated Press

wide satellite has a design life of seven years, but satellites often last about twice as long as their design life, Ball Aerospace said. □

US indexes move higher; Dow Jones back in black

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A modest gain for the stock market on Wednesday tugged the Dow Jones industrial average back into the black for the year as investors set aside concerns about Ukraine, Iraq and earnings, at least for a day. Amazon led the gains in light trading, despite a mixed batch of economic and corporate news. The gains were broad but thin. Three companies rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, and all 10 sectors in the S&P 500 ended higher.

"This is a very resilient market," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners, a hedge fund in New York.

Markets have turned choppy in recent weeks as investors have weighed a host of concerns. At times, worries over global conflicts and Europe's economy have overshadowed signs of steady growth in the U.S. economy and rising corporate profits. Landesman pointed to plenty of reasons for traders to ditch stocks this summer, including high prices.

"We're getting through the summer and the market is still pretty close to its high," he said. "It shows you the trend is still upward."

Amazon, the online retail giant, unveiled a new payment system for mobile phones. The device, called Amazon Local Register, is aimed at helping small businesses accept payments through smartphones and tablets. Amazon's stock gained \$6.96, or 2 percent, to \$326.28.

The S&P 500 rose 12.97

points, or 0.7 percent, to end at 1,946.72. The Dow gained 91.26 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,651.80, the first time in August that the 30-stock average has been in positive territory for the year.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite climbed 44.87 points, or 1 percent, to

equipment, said weak sales will likely cut into its earnings for the entire year. Deere dropped \$1.99, or 2 percent, to \$84.49.

King Digital Entertainment, maker of the "Candy Crush Saga" video game, plunged 23 percent. The company reported second-quarter sales that

companies reported for the first quarter of 2014.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that retail sales edged up by a tiny amount compared with the prior month. A separate report said businesses continued adding to their stockpiles in June. A greater amount



Traders Daniel Kryger, left, and Christopher Morie work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A modest gain for the stock market on Wednesday tugged the Dow Jones industrial average back into the black for the year.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

4,434.13.

Of the handful of companies reporting quarterly results on Wednesday, a few well-known names warned of sliding sales and shrinking profits. Macy's turned in results that fell short of Wall Street's forecasts. The department store chain also cut its full-year outlook for sales, saying it couldn't make up from a shortfall at the start of the year when winter storms kept shoppers at home. The company's stock dropped \$3.29, or 6 percent, to \$56.47.

Deere & Co., the country's largest maker of farm

came up short of estimates and also cut its full-year earnings forecast. King's stock lost \$4.21 to \$13.99.

Despite some high-profile misses, however, overall corporate results for the second quarter have looked solid. With the earnings season drawing to a close, seven out of 10 companies in the S&P 500 have posted stronger profits than analysts projected, according to S&P Capital IQ. Quarterly earnings are on track to climb 10 percent over the year before. That's much better than the 3 percent increase

of goods on store shelves and in warehouses reflects optimism about future demand. In other trading, Germany's DAX gained 1.4 percent, while France's CAC 40 rose 0.8 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 inched up 0.4 percent. All three indexes have slumped more than 1 percent this month. In the U.S. government bond market, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note was 2.42 percent, just shy of its low for the year and a drop from 2.45 percent late Tuesday. U.S. crude oil rose 22 cents to \$97.59 a barrel in New York. □

Kellogg to ask its suppliers to report carbon emissions

JOHN FLESHER
Associated Press

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan

(AP) — Kellogg said Wednesday it will step up efforts to reduce planet-warming emissions in its supply chain as part of a broader initiative designed to be more environmentally friendly.

Under the plan, the Battle Creek-based food products manufacturer will require key suppliers such as farms and mills to measure and publicly disclose their greenhouse gas outputs and targets for reducing them. The company said it will report annually on those emissions and include climate and deforestation policies in the company's code of conduct for suppliers.

Kellogg Co. will strengthen cutback requirements for its own plants, building on a 2008 pledge to reduce emissions 15 percent to 20 percent, said Diane Holdorf, chief sustainability officer. It also pledged to join Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy, a coalition that supports legislation that favors cleaner energy and a low-carbon economy.

"Not only is it what our customers and stakeholders expect of us ... but we want to hold ourselves accountable," Holdorf said.

The announcement drew praise from Oxfam International, a group pushing the food and beverage industry to reduce carbon emissions. "Climate change is putting hundreds of millions of people at risk of hunger and threatening everything from coffee and cereal to wine and chocolate," spokeswoman Monique van Zijl said. "Kellogg is joining a growing list of companies that are putting the weight of their brands behind climate action."

In addition to the measures on climate, the cereal maker also known for products such as Pringles potato chips and Keebler cookies announced a series of green performance goals to reach by 2020 that include a 50 percent increase in use of low-carbon energy and establishing water-reuse projects in 25 percent of its plants. □

Games, WeChat boost Tencent profit to \$949 million

BEIJING (AP) — China's Tencent Holdings Ltd., which operates online games and the popular WeChat messaging service, said Wednesday its quarterly profit rose 59 percent due to strong growth in its mobile business.

The company based in the southern city of Shenzhen earned 5.8 billion yuan (\$949 million) in the three

months ended June 30, or 0.63 yuan (10.2 U.S. cents) per share. Revenue rose 37 percent to 19.7 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion).

Tencent and other Chinese Internet services are spending heavily to expand mobile services as the country's Web surfers shift to going online wirelessly through smartphones and tablet computers.

Tencent's online games revenue rose 7 percent over the previous quarter, driven mostly by higher revenue for smartphone games integrated with WeChat. Revenue from social networks rose 15 percent over the previous quarter, also driven by mobile services. "We deepened user engagement on mobile across our social, games

and media platforms," said chairman Ma Huateng in a statement. "Our online advertising business grew particularly strongly."

Tencent also has expanded into online video, taxi hailing services and online finance. It bought a \$215 million stake in March in JD.com, the country's second-largest online sales platform. □

Deere & Co. takes a hit as farm economy weakens

MOLINE, Ill. (AP) — Deere's profit slumped 15 percent in the third quarter and the farming equipment maker, seeing weak sales ahead, trimmed its outlook and will cut production.

Chairman and CEO Samuel Allen said Wednesday that the cuts will bring production "in line with demand for our agricultural products."

With commodity prices falling, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February predicted that farm income in 2014 would sink to levels not seen in four years.

That is cutting into the spending power of farmers and hitting companies like Deere, the world's biggest farm equipment supplier.

Deere is now forecasting equipment sales will fall about 6 percent for fiscal 2014. Its prior guidance was for a 4 percent decline. For the fourth quarter, the company estimates equipment sales will drop approximately 8 percent.

In the U.S. and Canada, agriculture and turf sales are expected to fall approximately 10 percent in fiscal 2014. Sales of tractors and combines in South America are expected to fall about 15 percent, compared with a prior outlook for an approximately 10 percent decline.

Deere now anticipates sales of worldwide agriculture and turf equipment will drop about 10 percent in 2014, lower than a prior forecast for an approximately 7 percent decline. In the third quarter, agriculture and turf sales fell 11 percent.

For the three months ended July 31, Deere earned \$850.7 million, or \$2.33 per share. That topped expectations of \$2.20 per share, according to a poll by FactSet. But that's still down significantly from last year, when the Moline company earned \$996.5 million, or \$2.56 per share. Revenue from equipment sales fell to \$8.72 billion from \$9.32 billion, with equipment sales for the U.S. and Canada dropping 8 percent. Revenue declined to \$9.5 billion



This June 2014 photo shows John Deere farming equipment at a dealership in Petersburg, Ill. Deere & Co. reported weak quarterly financial results before the market opened Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

from \$10.01 billion.

"Deere's third-quarter performance reflected moderating conditions in the global farm sector, which

have negatively affected demand for farm machinery and contributed to lower sales and profits for our agricultural-equip-

ment business," Allen said. "At the same time, our construction and forestry divisions had higher profit, showing the benefit of a broad-based business lineup."

Construction and forestry sales rose 19 percent during the quarter.

Ryan Connors of Janney Capital Markets believes that strength in the company's construction and forestry division limited damage to margins.

Yet sluggish global conditions and geopolitical events may continue to pressure sales.

Susan Karlix, manager of the company's investor relations, pointed to declin-

ing economic growth near Russia.

"Notably, Western equipment manufacturers are being impacted by the uncertainty from geopolitical issues in the region," Karlix said.

Economic growth is expected to slow in China during the second half of the year, Karlix said.

There are signs, however, of a rebound in domestic markets, with housing sales improving and construction hiring on the rise.

Deere & Co. now anticipates a 2014 profit of \$3.1 billion, down slightly from its prior forecast of \$3.3 billion. The company's stock fell \$1.36 to \$85.12 in afternoon trading. □

Macy's 2Q profit falls short; sales outlook cut

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Macy's Inc. on Wednesday reported a 4 percent profit increase in its fiscal second quarter as business rebounded from slow sales earlier in the year.

But the department store chain cut its full-year outlook for a key sales measure, saying it couldn't make up the sales shortfall from the first quarter, when winter storms kept shoppers at home.

Shares of Macy's tumbled nearly 5 percent, or \$2.83, to \$56.93 in trading Wednesday.

Macy's, a standout among its peers throughout the economic recovery, is the first of the major retailers to report second-quarter results, which should provide insight into shoppers' mindset heading into the critical final months of the year. Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Nordstrom Inc., Kohl's Inc. and J.C. Penney Co. are set to report their results Thursday. Like many retailers catering to the middle class, Macy's is facing economic challenges. While the job market is improving and the housing market is rebounding, the gains are not strong enough to sustain big shopping sprees. Macy's said Wednesday that it's been pleased with the start to the back-to-

school season, which typically begins mid-July and ends in mid-September. But Macy's said it needs to continue to discount to bring shoppers in.

"Our outlook for the fall season reflects our confident optimism tempered with the reality that many customers are feeling the

impact of an economic environment that, at best, is improving very gradually," Chief Financial Officer Karen Hoguet told investors during a conference call Wednesday. Still, Macy's, which also operates the upscale chain Bloomingdale's, has bene-

fit from its focus on tailoring merchandise to local markets. It's also aiming to create a more seamless experience for shoppers who are going back and forth from stores to websites. Macy's, which has corporate offices in Cincinnati and New York, said it just finished rolling out a pro-

gram that allows shoppers to order online and then pick up items at stores. The company also said that its sharpened marketing and merchandising aimed at 13- to 30-year-old customers has re-energized the back-to-school business.

Macy's said its second-

quarter net income increased to \$292 million, or 80 cents per share, from \$281 million, or 72 cents per share, in the same quarter a year earlier. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for profit of 86 cents per share.

The company said rev-



Shoppers enter and leave a Macy's department store in Braintree, Mass. Macy's Inc. reported disappointing quarterly financial results before the market opened Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2014. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

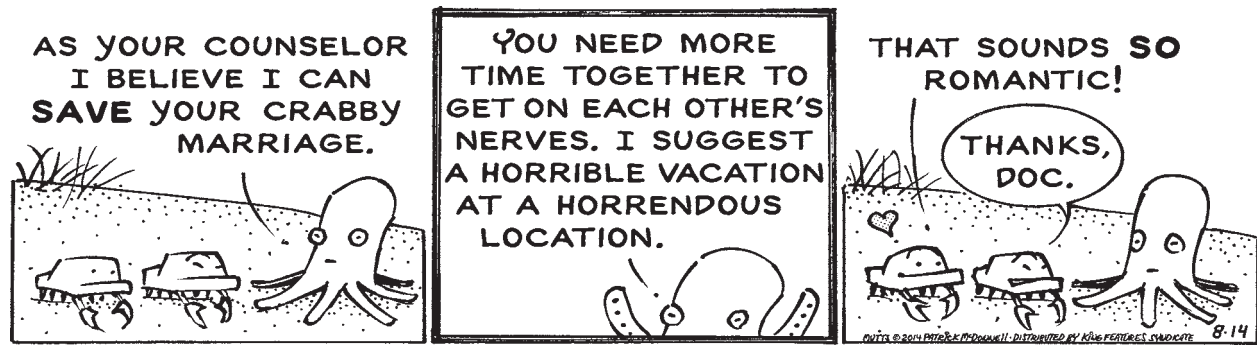
enue rose 3.3 percent to \$6.27 billion from \$6.07 billion in the same quarter a year earlier, but missed Wall Street forecasts. Analysts expected \$6.29 billion, according to Zacks.

Macy's said that sales at stores open at least a year rose 4 percent. □

Macy's said its second-

Macy's said its second-

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	5		8				3	
6		9		2		4		7
					1			
		1						9
	2			3			8	
5						6		
			6					
3		2		8		9		4
	9				5		6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

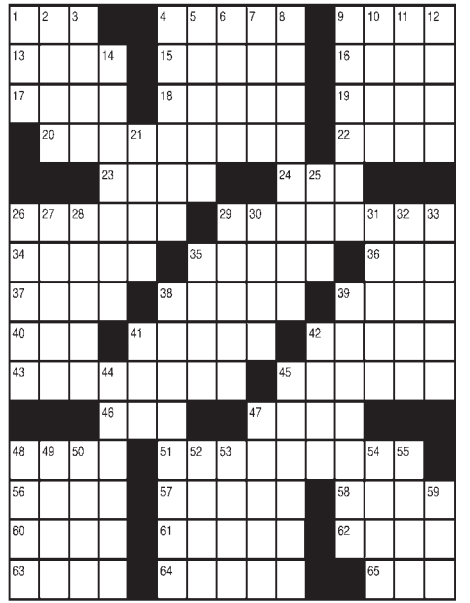
5	3	9	2	8	6	1	4	7
4	6	8	7	1	5	3	2	9
1	2	7	4	3	9	6	8	5
9	8	4	5	7	1	2	3	6
3	7	1	6	2	4	5	9	8
2	5	6	8	9	3	7	1	4
7	9	2	1	5	8	4	6	3
8	4	5	3	6	2	9	7	1
6	1	3	9	4	7	8	5	2

ACROSS

- Plead
- Yanks
- Marathon
- Death notice, for short
- Amphitheater
- Declare openly
- Qualified
- Bawler
- Bird's beak
- Made less taut, as a rope
- Doing nothing
- Hit the __; depart
- Anger
- Like Jacuzzi waters
- Penalizes
- Express one's viewpoint
- Sat for an artist
- "You __ My Sunshine"
- Jewelry for the finger
- Is fond of
- Store away
- Peg for Tiger
- Felt sick
- Harness strap
- Leg joint
- Tiny fish in a tin
- Dog bite
- danger
- Passionate
- Jailbird's room
- Author __ Stanley Gardner
- __ up; getting emotional
- Apple's center
- Get __ of; shed
- Vital artery
- Secret agents
- Chianti and Chablis
- __ fun at; ridiculed
- Secondhand
- Despised
- Wear away
- __ up; sutured
- Stack
- Able to read and write

DOWN

- Feathery scarf
- Flows back
- Fish's breathing organ



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

SUPS	SHARE	SHIP
KNOT	TOWEL	NUDE
IDLY	INEVITABLE	
SOY	ONES	RISER
GAWKY	CAL	
STAGES	FUSSES	
ARMED	CRASH	CAW
LAI	CHAMP	SOFA
EDS	CRANE	JONES
ETCHER	SPENORA	
LAW	SPASM	
ASTIR	VEIN	ITS
SAUNTERING	SCOT	
KING	LIASSO	RARE
SLAY	SWEET	SLIP

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8/14/14

- In a pouty way
- As poor __
- Basin
- Get in the way of
- Structural beam
- Elevate
- Dr. __; TV psychologist
- Risqué
- Above
- Level; smooth
- Castle trench
- Wall recess
- VP Al __
- Fellows

Autism

Continued from Page 8

"They called me 'tape recorder.'" she says.

In her teens, Grandin was exposed to horses at a boarding school and cattle on her aunt's ranch, and she began working with farm animals. She eventually created a business designing equipment for handling livestock.

People with the most severe autism aren't able to work because their disabilities limit their ability to learn. But it's only in the last two decades that society has come to realize that many people with disabilities including autism can work, says Paul Pizzutello, principal of Reach Academy, a school whose students include some who are autistic.

"With many people with autism, it's not their intellect that a problem, it's their ability to engage with their environment and manage social contacts," he says.

When Cottle's parents tried to help him get a job, they explained to prospective bosses that because he is autistic, he needs more time to understand instructions. The companies either didn't want to take the time to learn how to work with him or they assumed Cottle might do or say inappropriate things. He grew frustrated by the unsuccessful attempts to find work.

"He was at a brick wall before he started his bakery," Peg Cottle says.

Soon after starting, Cottle and his mother attended entrepreneurship training classes offered by Seed Spot, an organization that helps socially responsible businesses.

"He's legitimate. The product he produces is the real deal. His disability doesn't even come into play as far as I'm concerned," says Chris Norcross, general manager of building company and Stuttering King customer Mortenson Construction. He orders as many as 300 cookies at a time. Autistic owners don't run their companies by themselves. □

Classifieds



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GOLD Season
Oceanside \$9900
Oceanview \$9k
Oceanfront \$17k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k
PLATINUM Season
Oceanview \$16k
Oceanside \$17500
Oceanfront \$27,500
3 BEDRM OV \$27k
Plat. Plus Holiday 51
OV \$46k
Plat. Plus NY 52 OV
\$49k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

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202317

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e-mail rmwjmwa@aol.com or US 508 651 0016

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FOR SALE



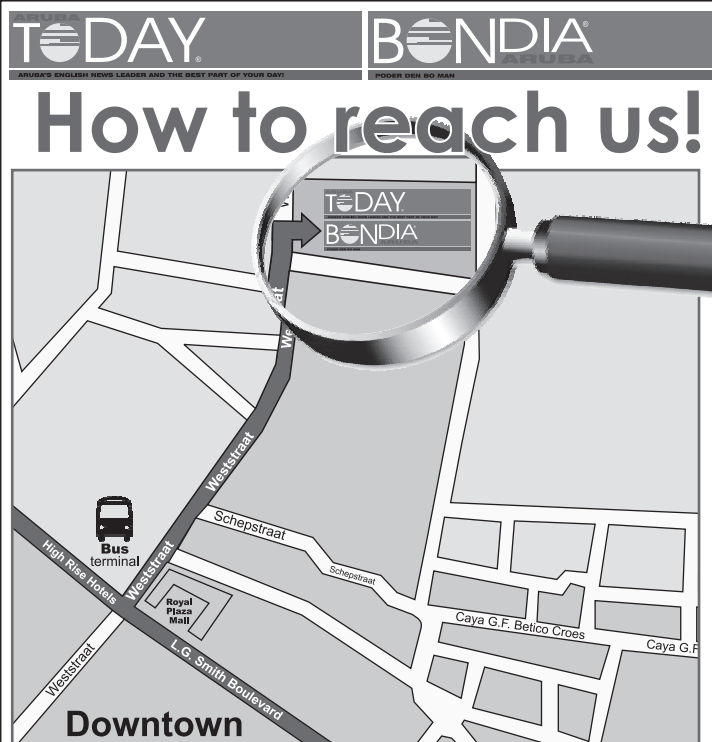
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POLIS	581-1100
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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

Oranjestad: del Pueblo Tel: 582-1253
San Nicolas: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

August 18
Monarch



Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
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Diabetic Foundation

Arubano

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Narcotics Anonymous
Tel: 583-8989

Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo
Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

Women in Difficulties

Foundation
Tel: 583-5400

Bloodbank Aruba
Tel: 587-0002

'Street view' goes undersea to map reefs, wonders

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

ISLAMORADA, Florida (AP)

—It's easy to go online and get a 360-degree, ground-level view of almost any street in the United States and throughout the world. Soon, scientists hope people will be able to do the same with coral reefs and other underwater wonders. U.S. government scientists are learning to use specialized fisheye lenses underwater in the Florida Keys this week in hopes of applying "street view" mapping to research and management plans in marine sanctuaries nationwide. Some of the rotating and panoramic images will be available online as early as this week, including a selection on Google Maps, giving the public a window into ecosystems still difficult and costly to explore for long stretches of time. It will be like scuba diving from your computer.

About 400,000 images have been produced so far of reefs off Australia and in the Caribbean, but this is the first time the technology is being used in U.S. waters.

The images in the U.S. will add scale and details to data that's already been collected, and illustrate the successes and failures of coral restoration. They

will also help scientists study the effects of warming ocean temperatures, pollution and hurricanes on reefs, officials said.

"This allows people who can't get underwater to understand what we mean by putting up a special

that's used to produce Google Street View images of neighborhoods on land. Instead of being placed on top of a car, the 143-pound (65-kilogram) riggings are tethered to scuba divers and powered through the water by

plants in the Keys' blue waters were in sharp focus as they rotated on screen. In an hour-long dive, each camera can capture images over an area up to 20 times larger than what's available with traditional underwater photogra-

partnership with the Catlin Seaview Survey, funded by the global insurance company Catlin. Google also is a sponsor.

The images that have been produced so far from other Catlin surveys are being uploaded online to the Catlin Global Reef Record. The project also moves next into Southeast Asia, Vevers said.

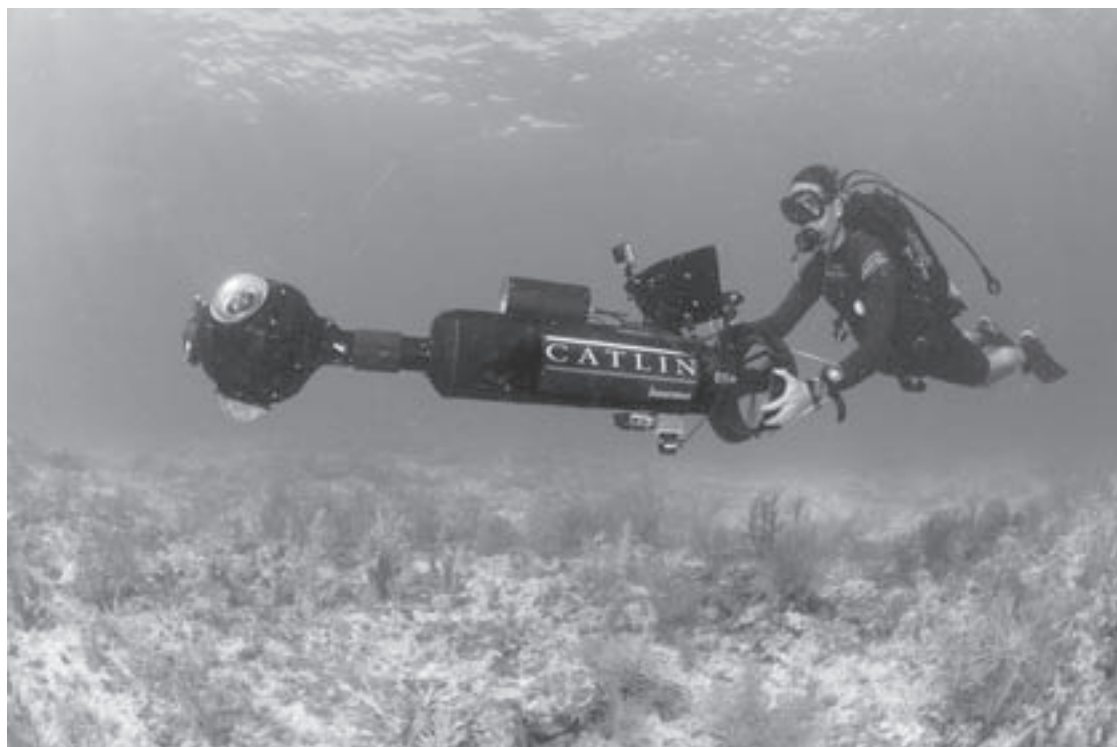
While the main survey continues worldwide, the smaller cameras will be available for targeted projects within NOAA sanctuaries, such as gauging the effectiveness of preservation zones in California's Monterey Bay sanctuary, or they could help measure the impacts of landslides that fall into the water.

The corporate sponsorship offers consistency in equipment, training and data, Vevers said.

Catlin's sustainability director, John Carroll, would only say the cost was "fairly substantial."

The benefit to the Bermuda-based company also would be substantial, he said, because there are a lot of insurable assets that depend on climate change.

"Clearly as an insurance company, we're keen to help manage this risk because, you know, that's our business," Carroll said. □



In this Aug. 9, 2014 photo provided by Catlin Seaview Survey, Catlin's Manuel Gonzalez surveys an area underwater in Key Largo, Fla.

preservation area around this particular spot," said Mitchell Tartt, chief of the conservation science division at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The basketball-shaped, triple-lens SVII cameras use the same technology

small motors. Smaller versions mounted on tripods also are being tested in the Keys this week.

In images previewed Monday by project director Richard Vevers, endangered elkhorn coral, bleached fields of dead coral and coral nurseries suspended like hanging

phy equipment, Vevers said. The technology also records GPS data and quickly stitches the images together into panoramic views or 360-degree views. The cameras and training in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for six NOAA officials are being paid for as part of a

NY law protects big cats, bans 'tiger selfies'

DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

ALBANY, New York (AP)

—Some of New York's Internet Romeos will have to find new ways to attract mates now that it's illegal to pose for photos with a tiger, lion or other big cat — a practice popular on online dat-

ing sites but denounced by wildlife advocates as potentially dangerous to both man and beast.

A law signed this week by Gov. Andrew Cuomo prohibits direct contact between members of the public and big cats at traveling animal shows

and fairs. Animal exhibitors would face fines for each violation.

So-called "tiger selfies" have emerged as popular profile photos on online dating sites, with users — generally young men — looking to stand out by posting a photo of themselves with the dangerous predators.

Wildlife advocates say the trend is not only potentially hazardous to humans but encourages mistreatment of endangered animals that are often taken from their mothers as cubs, poorly cared for and then neglected or discarded when they grow up.

"They breed the cubs, use them for photo-ops, and

then when they can't use them they breed more," said Carole Baskin, founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue, a Tampa, Florida, sanctuary that has more than 100 big cats. "Taking the cub away is a misery to the cub and the mother, and the cubs aren't fed properly. They don't sell tiger milk at the pet store." The legislators behind the new law said they hadn't even heard of tiger selfies when they crafted the measure and simply wanted to impose some safeguards on the often unregulated industry of traveling animal shows.

"I had no idea what a tiger selfie was," said Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal,

a Manhattan Democrat. "This is a serious issue. People who take selfies with wild animals are fooling with their lives. And it harms the animal because they're generally not well-treated. They're seen as profit-making props."

Similar laws are already on the books in states including Mississippi, Arizona and Kansas, where a 17-year-old girl was killed in 2005 while posing with a tiger for her senior photos.

Baskin said she hopes other states follow suit. She said men hoping to use tiger selfies to score a date should consider posing with a domestic feline instead.

"I think women would love that," she said. □



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Duran Duran coming to theaters (and your earbuds)

CHRIS TALBOTT

AP Music Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— Nick Rhodes is on the phone to talk about Duran Duran's concert film collaboration with director David Lynch that's slated for a one-night-only theatrical engagement next month. As he talks of being inspired by Lynch's "The Elephant Man" as a teenager, he can hear another one of his inspirations nearby: Nile Rodgers on guitar. "I can actually hear him playing the guitar just down the corridor from where I am right now," Rhodes says gleefully.

Next month will mark a period of high activity for Duran Duran. Along with work to finish a new album, the British rock band will appear at the Fashion Rocks concert at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York, on Sept. 9 before releasing "Duran Duran: Unstaged" in more than 300 North American theaters on Sept. 10.

The film is an enhanced version of Lynch's original livestream presentation, with tweaks and enhancements to improve on the 2011 original. The "American Express Unstaged" series pairs musicians with directors who design a one-off live show that even a band as seasoned as Duran Duran was nervous about.

"It literally was live live," Rhodes said. "It was one of those moments where we all looked at each other and said, 'Good luck, let's see what happens.' And it went out on the Internet just exactly as we played it, and of course there were some things that didn't work quite as well as others, and footage that didn't sync up in the most beautiful place that it could have done ... so it's had a proper polish. It's been refined for cinema, and it looks beautiful, too. The print is fantastic." When the group approached Lynch to oversee the initial livestream, he said he'd only consider it if it was "radically different" than the staid concert-film formula. Lynch



In this March 23, 2011 file photo, from left, Duran Duran members John Taylor, Roger Taylor, Nick Rhodes and Simon Le Bon pose together backstage before a concert at The Mayan Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

chose to shoot the piece in black and white — like "The Elephant Man," which Rhodes and John Taylor saw together in a Birmingham, England, theater as teenagers — and created a series of images to run over the top of the band's performance.

"There was a room filled

with smoke all the time," Rhodes said. "There was another room where there were a lot of actors doing strange things. Then he prepared some other footage which varied between sort of hand puppets and aero-planes and clocks and machinery and this footage just sort of literally

was superimposed over us playing ... and I think the results are really pretty unusual."

The band is shooting for less radically different results in the recording studio where it has been cutting songs with Rodgers, who co-produced the group's 1986 album, "Notorious." Mark

Ronson and Mr Hudson are also producing tracks. The album will be mixed next month, and Rhodes said it will be out in the first half of 2015. "I think we know where we want to be and it's right in the center of the dance floor," Rhodes said. "That's what we're aiming for together." □

Conde Nast spins off Lucky mag in BeachMint deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Lucky magazine is no longer part of the Conde Nast media company.

Conde Nast has spun the shopping and fashion magazine off to join the e-commerce platform BeachMint in a new entity called The Lucky Group. Eva Chen,

Lucky's editor-in-chief, will serve as The Lucky Group's chief creative officer, and BeachMint's co-founder Josh Berman will be the new entity's CEO, Conde Nast announced earlier this week. Lucky's editorial and business teams are expected to join the new compa-

ny. Anna Wintour, Conde Nast's artistic director, will serve as an adviser to The Lucky Group.

The Lucky Group will not move with Conde Nast when it opens its new offices at the World Trade Center complex later this year. Lucky has struggled to sell

advertising, with its pages down by about a third in the past year.

The magazine will continue to be published in print, digital and mobile formats, but its collaboration with BeachMint will offer readers a new e-commerce experience by early 2015. □

Cronenberg, Godard in New York Film Fest lineup

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Film Festival has announced a lineup heavy on the hits from May's Cannes Film Festival, including David Cronenberg's grimly dark Hollywood satire, "Maps to the Stars," and Jean-Luc Go-

dard's 3-D film, "Goodbye to Language."

Bennett Miller's wrestling drama, "Foxcatcher," and Mike Leigh's J.M.W. Turner biopic, "Mr. Turner," also will screen at the 52nd New York Film Festival. The slate was announced Wednes-

day by the Film Society of Lincoln Center. The annual festival runs Sept. 26 through Oct. 12.

Also coming to the festival are: "Clouds of Sils Maria" starring Juliette Binoche and Kristen Stewart, the Dardenne brothers' "Two

Days, One Night" and Sundance award-winner "Whiplash."

Previously announced were festival opener "Gone Girl," the centerpiece "Inherent Vice" and the closer "Birdman or The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance." □

'The Giver' arrives, after a two-decade journey

JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — It was almost 20 years ago, and actor Jeff Bridges was searching for a movie project that would be a family affair — one in which he could direct his father, Lloyd, and that his children, then around middle-school age, would want to see. An entry in a children's book catalog caught his eye. "It had a picture of this old grizzled guy on the cover. And I said, 'Oh, Dad could do that!'"

That book was "The Giver," by Lois Lowry, which won the prestigious Newberry Medal in 1994 and has sold over 10 million copies worldwide. He read it, then mentioned it to his kids. "They said, 'Oh, we know that, we read it in school,'" he said in an interview this week. "It turned out there were whole curriculums based on it."

Indeed. There's hardly a middle-schooler who hasn't been assigned "The Giver" at some point. And so the film version, opening this week, isn't exactly riding the coattails of book-to-film franchises like "The Hunger Games" and "Divergent." You might actually say it started the whole craze.

But why did it take so long to get made?



This image released by The Weinstein Company shows Meryl Streep, left, and Jeff Bridges in a scene from "The Giver."

"I thought, 'It's gonna be a cinch,'" Bridges chuckled. "And that was 18 years ago."

There were problems. The book, which depicts euthanasia, for one thing, was banned in some places. And because so much of the action took place inside the mind of its main character, it was hard to capture in a screenplay. At least five or six were written. Financing proved elusive. Years went by. And Bridges and author Lowry watched as young-adult dystopian fiction became the next big thing in Hollywood. "The Hunger Games" debuted

in 2012 to huge box office, elevating Jennifer Lawrence to a mega-star; the sequel followed, with two more to come. The "Divergent" franchise launched earlier this year.

"It was kind of unnerving," said Lowry, sipping tea in a Manhattan hotel this week. And yet, both Lowry and Bridges agree, maybe it's good that it took so long.

"At first I was saying, Oh darn," Bridges said, using a saltier term. "We missed the boat! But really, our movie wouldn't have gotten made without those movies leading the way." (His father died in 1998; now

Bridges, a co-producer, himself plays the character of The Giver.)

Lowry, who ranks third among Amazon's top 100 authors, hopes the existence of the other films will increase the audience for "The Giver" — adding people as yet unfamiliar with the book.

"And as for fans of the book," she adds, "we all so hope they won't be outraged by the changes that were necessary. I've been trying to reassure them!"

Ah, the changes — always a balancing act. The story focuses on a boy, Jonas, who lives in a Community

ruled by a Committee of Elders. All is based on the concept of Sameness. There's no color, only black and white. There's no emotion; sexual "stirrings" are blunted with daily medication. Most important, there are no memories of earlier times, for that would cause suffering. But Jonas is chosen to be the community's one Receiver of Memories, and as he learns about the world outside — called Elsewhere — it throws his own world into chaos.

In the book, Jonas is 12. In the movie, his age isn't clear, but he's played by Australian heartthrob Brenton Thwaites, who's 25. This was done partly to create a teen romance, a change that initially deeply concerned both Bridges and Lowry. Now that they've seen the actors, they say, they're happy with it.

Lowry sounds happier about another key change, one that gives Meryl Streep, as the stern Chief Elder, a substantial role. "I wish I could go back to the book and fill out that character now," Lowry said. But to many fans of the book, it's perfect the way it is. Lowry learned of the book's power during a recent appearance at Comic-Con, where she, and not the stars, proved the major attraction. □



This book cover image released by Viking shows "The Magician's Land," by Lev Grossman.

Associated Press

HENRY C. JACKSON

Associated Press

"The Magician's Land" (Viking) by Lev Grossman
Quentin Coldwater — a moody, man-child magi-

'Magician's Land' closes a trilogy that matures

cian — is finally growing up. And just in time to save everything, mostly, that's ever mattered to him.

"The Magician's Land" is the final book in the three-book "Magicians" trilogy, a genre-busting adult fantasy series. The books follow Quentin and an ever-growing cast of magicians, magicians' hangers-on, magical creatures, gods, bookkeepers, talking birds, knights, kings and queens and the like through their school days, their angst, their relationships, their magical quests and across their magical lands. And to

outskirts of Newark Liberty International Airport.

All in the name of magic. The final installment doesn't disappoint, bringing Quentin's saga to a satisfying, deeply felt conclusion. For those who haven't read the first two books, it's best to stop here. Read "The Magicians" and "The Magician King" both for the welcome backfill of information and the sheer pleasure of their adventures. You won't regret it. Everything to follow — the magical buttons, the flying carpets, the talking animals, the confounding and mysterious Chatwin

family — will make so much more sense after absorbing the mythos.

Which is not to say "Land" won't stand on its own merits. It presents themes and allusions that have evolved and improved across three books, much like their chief protagonist.

Beginning with "The Magicians," author Lev Grossman sought to write something that seemed contradictory: an adult (read: literary) novel about magic. Take some elements of Harry Potter or "The Chronicles of Narnia," to which this book pays deep homage, and

mix in the traditional coming-of-age novel. Weave in real elements of loss and mourning and human emotion. With a wag of the wand, Grossman creates whole worlds and a genre more or less to himself.

"Land" begins where "The Magician King" left off: Quentin is in exile, shorn of his magical title and abruptly booted from Filory by a feckless god. The experience has pushed him back to his alma mater, Brakebills, where he is serving as an adjunct professor until something goes wrong. □

Intervening in Our Name



CHARLES M. BLOW
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Americans, it must be admitted, are not always the most engaged people on world issues. It's a sad truth.

But the world, at this moment, is aflame, and more Americans must perk up and pay attention. Before we know it, we will have already been drawn into these conflicts.

On Thursday, President Barack Obama said he had authorized limited airstrikes against the Islamic State, which the president said threatens some citizens of northern Iraq with "genocide." The president, ever-conscious of his own commitment to extract us from the war in Iraq and of American weariness about our re-engaging, added: "As commander in chief, I will not allow the United States to be dragged into another war in Iraq."

Most Americans probably had not heard of the Islamic State until a few months ago, but we have known about the civil war in Syria for years. Many Americans, understandably, didn't want to engage in another foreign conflict, but from this region sprang the Islamic State. We, understandably, were eager to exit Iraq, but into that void flowed the Islamic State.

Russia annexed the Crimea, a commercial airliner was shot down over eastern Ukraine - likely by Russian-backed Ukrainian separatists - and now Russia appears to be gathering a menacing troop presence on the Ukrainian border. As Reuters reported last week:

"Russia has amassed around 20,000 combat-ready troops on Ukraine's eastern border and could use the pretext of a humanitarian or peacekeeping mission to invade, NATO said." The on-again, off-again cease-fires in Gaza have yet to produce a lasting peace. Before last week's cease-fire, according to United Nations figures, there had been "1,814 Palestinians killed, including at least 1,312 civilians, of whom 408 are children and 214 are women." By comparison, the report said there were "67 Israelis killed, including 64 soldiers, two civilians and one foreign national."

An NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey released last week asked Americans if they were satisfied with, dissatisfied with or didn't know enough about how the U.S. was dealing with many of these topics, and the answers were thoroughly depressing.

On the Islamic State in Iraq,

Syria, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and Israel and Hamas, at least 32 percent - and as high as 42 percent in the case of Syria - said they didn't know enough to have an opinion. Of respondents who did have an opinion, those who were dissatisfied far outnumbered those who were satisfied, and most of the dissatisfied said their dissatisfaction was rooted in their belief that the U.S. wasn't involved enough.

More Americans need to be more engaged, because these conflicts are complicated. There are no easy answers. Sometimes there will be no clear choices between good guys and bad guys but only choices among lesser demons. Sometimes conflicts are a swirl of history, ambition, grievance, vengeance and egos. Sometimes actors can only see righteousness in their wrong. Sometimes nobility and savagery coexist.

But if America, as the world's last remaining superpower, is to faithfully play a role - if we must play that role - as a check against tyranny and terror in the world, its citizenry must be up to the task of discernment.

You don't necessarily have to be privy to national security reports to be part of the national conversation. Those who know more don't always know better. It has been my experience that truth has a way of revealing itself to those willing to search for it.

We have a responsibility to stay abreast of the conflicts in the world so that we can support or reject our leaders' efforts to navigate them.

Abdicating that responsibility inevitably seems to grant more power to the war machine and its warmongers who have never seen a fight they didn't want to join.

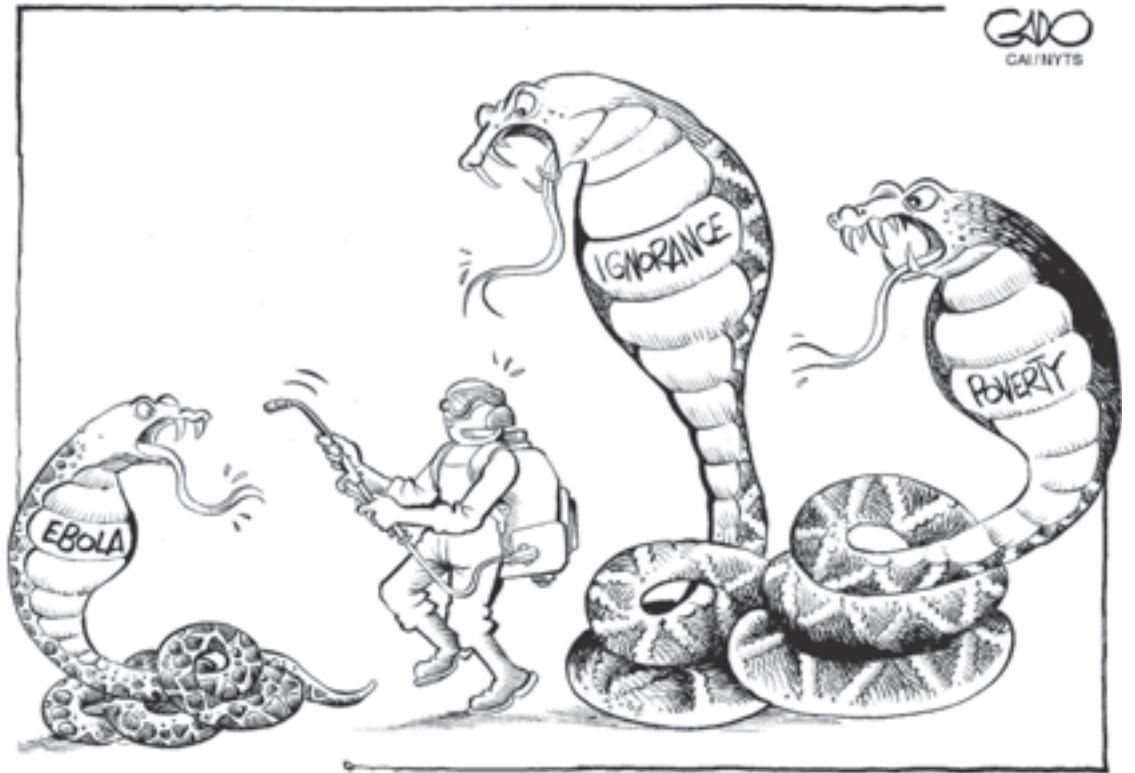
But we continue to be reminded that what's left in the wake of force can be worse than what existed before it. Sadly, not every population can be freed, nor every life saved, by an exterior force when threatened by the reign of dictators or the rise of terrorists. This is a hard truth to swallow in the land of the free and home of the brave. Our hearts hurt for the oppressed and the slain.

But sometimes, we must use softer power. As the president said in May at West Point: "Just because we have the best hammer does not mean that every problem is a nail."

Sometimes sanctions will be the more appropriate path, sometimes appeals for peace. And regardless of our approach, we have no guarantees of success. There are limits to all expressions of power. Sometimes we can only influence - but not dictate - events.

Sometimes the best we can do is to maintain constant pressure, so that we slowly bend the world toward freedom and justice.

Whatever our politics, we must at least make an effort to know enough about the issues to take a position. □



Clinton, Obama And Iraq



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

Last week, Hillary Clinton had a fascinating interview with Jeffrey Goldberg of The Atlantic. The interview got immediate attention because of the way she discussed her differences with President Barack Obama.

While admitting that no one will ever know who was right, Clinton argues that Obama might have done more to help the moderate opposition in Syria fight the regime of President Bashar Assad.

"The failure to help build up a credible fighting force of the people who were the originators of the protests against Assad ... left a big vacuum, which the jihadists have now filled," she told Goldberg.

While showing lavish respect for the president's intelligence and judgment, Clinton also made it clear that she'd be a more aggressive foreign policy leader.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'Don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she said, citing Obama's famous phrase.

But the interview also illuminates the different flavors of Democratic thinking on foreign policy. We are now living in what we might as well admit is the Age of Iraq. The past four presidents have found themselves drawn into that nation because it epitomizes the core problem at the center of so many crises: the interaction between failing

secular governance and radical Islam.

In her interview with Goldberg, Clinton likens the current moment to the Cold War. The United States confronts a diverse global movement, motivated by a hostile ideology: jihadism.

"Jihadist groups are governing territory," she said. "They will never stay there, though. They are driven to expand."

This jihadism shows up in many contexts, but whether in Gaza or Syria or Iraq, she says, "it is all one big threat."

Clinton speaks as a Truman-Kennedy Democrat. She's obviously much, much more multilateral than Republicans, but there's a certain muscular tone, a certain assumption that there will be hostile ideologies that threaten America. There is also a grand strategic cast to her mind. The U.S. has to come up with an "overarching" strategy, she told Goldberg, to contain, deter and defeat anti-democratic foes.

She argues that harsh action is sometimes necessary.

"I think Israel did what it had to do to respond to the rockets," she declared, embracing recent Israeli policy. "There's no doubt in my mind that Hamas initiated this conflict. ... So the ultimate responsibility has to rest on Hamas."

This tone sometimes stands in tension with the approach that Obama articulated in his West Point speech in the spring or in his interview with my colleague Thomas Friedman on Friday.

Obama has carefully not organized a large part of his foreign policy around a war against jihadism. The foreign policy vision he describes is, as you'd expect from a former law professor, built around reverence for certain procedures: compromise, inclusiveness, rules and norms. The threat he described in his West Point speech was a tactic, terrorism, not an ideology, jihadism. His main argument was against a means not an end: the efficacy of military action.

Obama is notably cautious, ar-

guing that the U.S. errs when it tries to do too much. The cast of his mind is against intervention. Sometimes, when the situation demands it, he goes against his natural temperament (he told Friedman that he regrets not getting more involved in Libya), but it takes a mighty shove, and he is resistant all the way. In his West Point speech, he erected barriers to action. He argued, for example, that the U.S. could take direct action only when "there is near certainty of no civilian casualties." (This is not a standard that Franklin Roosevelt would have applied.)

Obama and Clinton represent different Democratic tendencies. In their descriptions of the current situation in Iraq, Clinton emphasizes that there cannot be inclusive politics unless the caliphate is seriously pushed back, while Obama argues that we will be unable to push back the caliphate unless the Iraqis themselves create inclusive politics. The Clinton language points toward some sort of intervention. Obama's points away from it, although he may be forced by events into being more involved.

It will be fascinating to see how Clinton's approach plays in Democratic primaries. (I'd bet she is going to get a more serious challenge than people now expect.) In practice, the Clinton approach strikes me as more sound, for the same reason that early intervention against cancer is safer than late-term surgery. In the Middle East, malevolent groups like the Islamic State grow unless checked. Even in situations where our "friends" are dysfunctional, the world has to somehow check them, using a multitude of levers. Having done so little in Syria and Iraq for the past year, we can end the caliphate or we can stay out of Iraq, but we can't do both.

If you don't take steady, aggressive preventive action, of the sort that Clinton leans toward, then you end up compelled to take the sort of large risky action that Obama abhors. □

Fresno State Faces the Task of Keeping Up With the Big 5's

JOHN BRANCH

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FRESNO, Calif. - As hundreds of universities try to make sense of the seismic jolts remaking the landscape of college sports, the only certainties appear to be that the rich are getting richer and the poor will fall further behind. Stuck in the middle are schools like Fresno State.

With athletic ambition bigger than its budget, Fresno State represents the vast

one more day. Joseph Castro, the president of Fresno State, removed Boeh from his position and named him a "special assistant to the President" when the news was announced on Tuesday.

"In his new role, Boeh will serve as primary adviser to President Castro on the unprecedented changes occurring within the NCAA and Mountain West Conference due to recent labor actions and legisla-

treatment from an army of trainers. Next door to that, in a vast weight room with half a million dollars' worth of new equipment, the women's soccer team was led through workouts below a large Fresno State mural.

"Basically, we're trying to look like a Cadillac on a Chevrolet budget," Boeh said.

The athletics budget is about \$30 million, below that of the 65 schools play-

do what you can to keep up?" Boeh asked. "Or is there a critical point where some institutions say we don't want to play in this game anymore? To date, I haven't heard of any institution say, 'We're not going to do all we can to stay competitive.'"

Fresno State has an admirable history of on-field success. It plays in the Mountain West Conference, against universities like Boise State and San Diego

Last year, Fresno State started 10-0 behind quarterback Derek Carr (a second-round draft choice of the Oakland Raiders in May) and was on the verge of crashing the big-money Bowl Championship Series when it was upset by San Jose State. It won the conference championship and lost a bowl game to Southern California.

In the offseason, DeRuyter signed a contract extension through 2018 that will pay him \$1.4 million this year, with a chance at \$750,000 in bonuses. It is big money at Fresno State, but typical in college football, where Alabama coach Nick Saban has a base salary of \$6.9 million.

DeRuyter estimated that half of his players were also recruited by programs in the bigger conferences - mostly lower-level teams in leagues like the Pacific-12. And he said that half of his players and their families might be enticed by the promise of cash stipends and more scholarship money, as the big conferences appear ready to offer.

"The chips have always been stacked against us," DeRuyter said. "What you have to do is accentuate what you have to offer. Is getting another \$1,000 worth more to a recruit than more playing time or winning a conference championship?"

DeRuyter is most concerned about two rumored changes. There is talk that the Big 5 conferences may push to expand the number of football scholarships from 85 to 95. That would steer 120 extra players into the Pacific-12 that might otherwise head to programs like Fresno State's.

Second, some have speculated that the NCAA might loosen transfer rules, allowing athletes to move freely from one program to another with no penalty. (Generally, athletes now sit out of competition for a year when transferring.) DeRuyter worries that Fresno State and others would lose their best players after a couple of seasons.

"We'd be a minor league for a lot of those conferences," he said. □



The Fresno State University offensive line works their blocking sled during morning practice in Fresno, Calif., Aug. 11, 2014. With athletic ambition bigger than its budget, Fresno State represents the vast middle class in college sports. It is not in the top tier of success and prestige, but close enough to be tantalized by it, a goal that may be harder to reach in the wake of new NCAA rules.

(Max Whittaker/The New York Times)

middle class in college sports. It is not in the top tier of success and prestige, but close enough to be tantalized by it. Centered in the heart of California, surrounded by the likes of UCLA, Stanford and Southern California, it is perfectly positioned as a bellwether for how next-tier programs view the changes that seem destined to mostly help the nation's top programs.

"Clearly we are moving away from parity," Thomas Boeh, the Fresno State athletic director for nine years, said as he watched football practice on Monday morning. "We are certainly moving to a Darwinian model." Boeh himself did not survive

tion," the university said in a news release.

A search for a new athletic director is underway - one whose mission will largely be to raise more money to keep up with the changes coming to college sports.

On Monday, workers at Fresno State installed carpet in the football team's decade-old locker room, part of a \$500,000 remodeling that includes new, wider lockers for the players, more big-screen televisions and a neon-accented Bulldogs logo on the ceiling.

Next door, in the airy, \$6.7 million Meyers Family Sports Medicine Center that opened last fall, athletes from several Fresno State sports teams received

ing in one of the five richest conferences that received preliminary approval from the NCAA last week to rewrite rules in their favor basically allowing them to spend more money on the athletes that fuel their programs. More than a dozen programs currently spend about \$100 million on athletics.

A monumental court ruling on Friday, one of many cases that may upend the tradition of amateurism in college sports, could lead to more compensation for players - something that Fresno State, with 225 athletic scholarships, probably cannot afford to match.

"Does this become business as usual, where you

State. Its football team was 11-2 last season, its men's basketball team is on the rise, and its baseball and softball teams have won national championships in the not-so-distant past. Thanks largely to its relative isolation in California's vast Central Valley, Fresno State has the full attention of a rapturous fan base.

But what if universities in the Big 5 conferences begin to offer stipends, or upgrade health insurance or allow greater access to agents? Can schools like Fresno State, and conferences like the Mountain West, afford to follow? Can they afford not to?

Tim DeRuyter is in his third season as football coach.